



Top
designs
for 2009
Pages
12-13

Truly
Taiwanese
Page 16

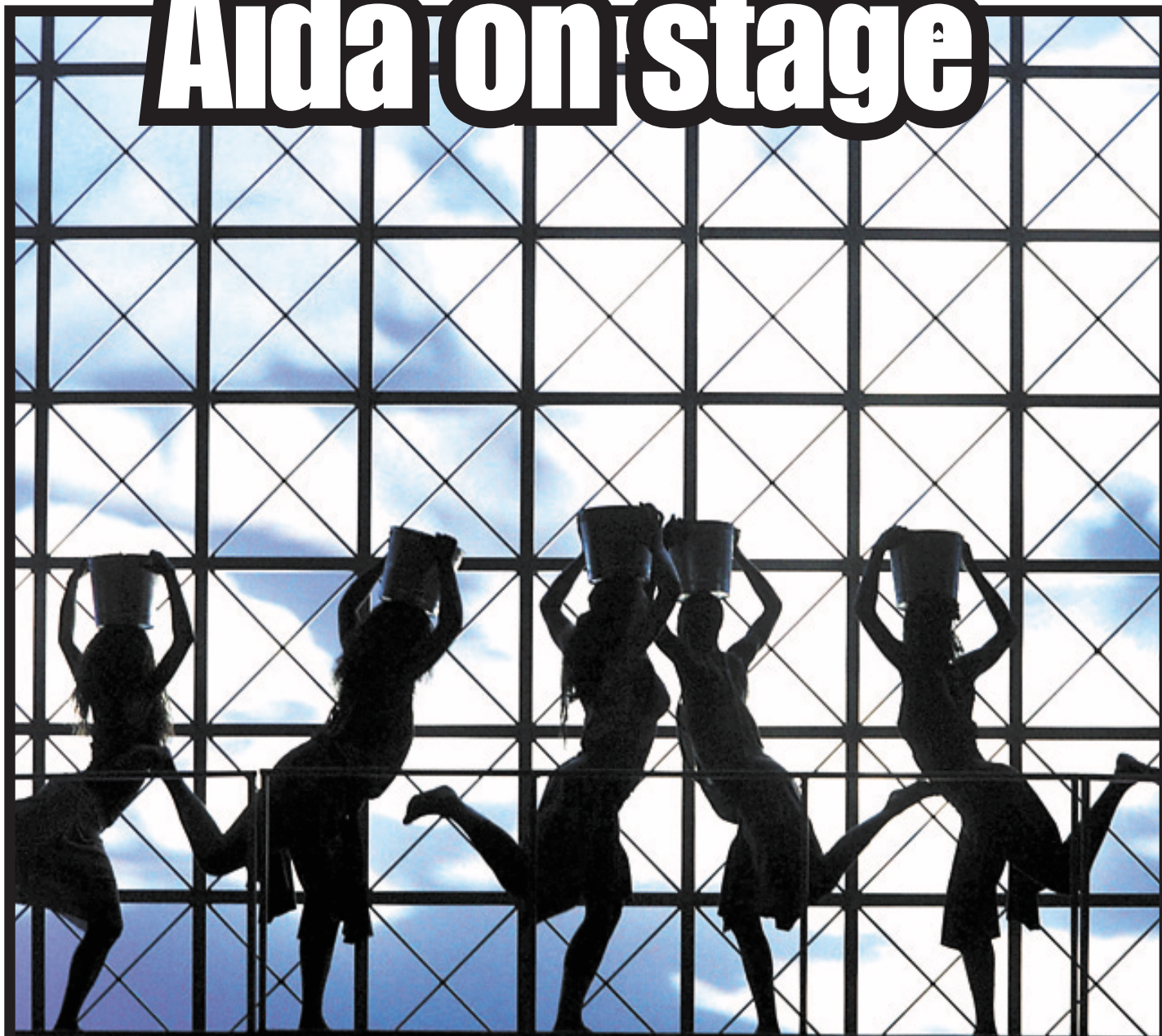


LAN Club's
seafood fusion
Page 17



Page 8

Aida on stage



CFP Photo

Page 2

Internet addiction
a mental illness

Page 3

Boston U honors
director of Games

Page 4

Can the gov save
our medical system?

Page 9

T-shirt maker the
top entrepreneur



"HAPPY HOUR" EVERYDAY! 2/4/1 - 4/2/8

GOOSE "N" DUCK SPORTS PUB & ARENA

"WE FEED THE NEED"

AT A FAIR PRICE!

CHAO YANG PARK EAST GUANHU GARDEN TOWER S1

朝阳公园桥东北角观潮国际写字楼一号首层



59283045/46/47



PLAY YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY IN ADVANCE TODAY!



Hospital to reclassify Web addicts as mental patients

By Han Manman

Feeling irritated when your ADSL connection is down may seem normal, but under a new health classification, that irritation could be a mental illness. China is poised to become the first

country to recognize Internet addiction as an illness as growing numbers of people spend hours online every day.

The news has many asking whether being glued to the Web is really a mental illness.

Signed on for life

Doctors in Beijing released a manual this weekend to provide a formal definition of the addiction to aid in diagnosis. There are growing concerns that overuse of the Internet may be responsible for psychological problems.

The manual, composed by the Military General Hospital, has been submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval. If approved, the manual will become the criterion used by major hospitals across the country to diagnose the new disorder.

"It is very highly likely (the Ministry of Health) will give the manual the green light next year," said Tao Ran, the man who led the drafting of Internet Addiction Disorder (IAD), the diagnostic manual. Tao established the country's first Internet addiction clinic at the Military General Hospital in Beijing in 2006.

The manual was developed based on a study of 1,300 troubled Internet users. Addicts were classified as people who spent at least six hours per day online and who have exhibited at least one symptom of addiction in the past three months.

Based on the report, addicts engage in five main activities: online gaming, pornography, excessive social networking, Internet shopping and general surfing.

"This is part of a greater effort to address concerns about the psychological problems that may result from Internet abuse," Tao said.

Tao said the approval would not only add a new disease to clinical medicine, but also make it clear that addicts should be treated by the psychiatric department of the hospital, which he



Military General Hospital doctors have turned to drugs and therapy to treat the latest mental illness: Internet abuse. CFP Photo

says will guarantee scientific and effective treatment.

Real life problems

As many as 10 percent of the country's 40 million child Internet users are addicted to the Web, according to a report submitted to the National People's Congress Standing Committee in August.

Dependence on the virtual world has reportedly caused real-life problems. As much as 76 percent of all juvenile crime is Internet-related, according to a figure from the Beijing Public Security Bureau.

"We have more problems than Western countries do in this area," Tao said.

Last December, Hu Ange, a 22-year-old man from Sichuan

Province, was sentenced to death by the Suining Intermediate People's Court for poisoning his parents after spending 50,000 yuan on online games.

Gao Wenbin, a researcher for the psychology institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said lack of family care, companions and real-life games are a driving force behind the rise in Internet addicts.

"Most children in China are the only child in their families. They are told to study hard, but no one cares about their needs," Gao said.

Second opinion

Although many experts believe the manual's release may be a big step in combating Inter-

net addition, many said the standards are ridiculous.

"I usually play online games on the weekend. Sometimes I play a whole day just to relax. But now, according to these standards, I belong in the whack shack," Wang Xin, one online gamer, said.

Sociologist Tao Hongkai, who is researching what makes some so addicted to the Web, has another opinion. "Internet addiction is a psychological problem no different from a bad habit. It is not a mental illness," he said.

He said the country should establish a standard for defining Internet addition, but it is more important to understand the cause, and how to help addicts log off.

Ministry bumps retirement to relieve pension woes

By Venus Lee

News that the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security intends to push back the age for mandatory retirement to 65 has met with a backlash from young graduates in the country's already strained job market.

Currently, mandatory retirement is set at age 60 for men and age 55 for women. But the rise in life expectancy has forced a reevaluation to balance the pressures of aging and economic development.

Starting 2010, the mandatory retirement age will gradually be pushed back, settling on age 65 by 2030, He Ping, director of the

ministry, said at the 3rd China Labor Forum.

The main reason for a deferred retirement plan lies in massive breaches in the payment of retirement pensions, along with an imbalance in aging that began with the one child policy, he said. Deferred retirement will relieve the financial pressures by delaying the point at which the elderly begin to collect social security benefits.

An online poll on Xinhua.net shows 85 percent of netizens disapproved of the plan while 12 percent supported it as of Wednesday afternoon. Many said deferred retirement will come with the

cost of depriving fresh graduates of opportunities in an already strained job market.

"The number of openings will decrease. If the elderly stay on longer, there will be fewer openings for young and promising workers," Yang Jun, a new graduate working in a state-run company, said.

However, Du Peng, vice president of the Geriatric Research Institute of Renmin University, disagreed. "Retention of the elderly is an issue separate from the hiring of young people. I think the relationship is not competitive, but complementary. It is a waste of human resources and educa-

tion if a man retires at 60 after being in school until 30," he said.

Dong Dengxin, a professor in the College of Literature Law and Economics of Wuhan University of Science and Technology, advocates a flexible retirement system.

The current one-size-fits-all proposal will fail to respect the will of currently old workers, Dong said.

"The deferred retirement policy should be applied for those who want to continue working after age 60. But people who want to retire at 60 should be allowed to do so, and should receive their pensions from then on," he said.

Ministry's Web ID checker met with suspicion

By Zhao Hongyi

The Ministry of Public Security opened its online ID checking service this weekend to the tune of protests and complaints. By the next morning, the Web site was offline.

A ministry spokesman said the service was designed to help people confirm the ID status of their customers, cyber friends, employees and tenants, and to judge them as reliable and trust-worthy. The Web site would help combat fraud, he said.

Li Ming, a local housewife, was seeking a reliable babysitter. She spent 5 yuan to do a background check on a candidate last Saturday at nciic.org.com and found the candidate provided an authentic ID card.

"It was convenient and reassuring. It helped me in making the decision (of whether or not to hire her)," Li said.

The ministry spokesman said the database includes 1.307 billion ID cards and has been used by government bodies, notary agencies, financial organizations, telecommunications enterprises and other business entities since 2006.

Fake IDs are common and help support a growing criminal underbelly across the country. Over the past two years, the database has been queried as many as 40 million times: 1.6 million of these queries uncovered fake or unmatched ID cards, which proponents argue has helped to prevent crime and loss.

However, the public has cast a suspicious eye on the service, especially for its use in obtaining private information about people in its database.

The ministry made a special announcement to promise privacy control on its Web site this week.

"The service responds only to the person who queried it and does not provide any information except whether the attached ID number and photo is correct or not," Lu Subing, deputy director of the National Citizen Identity Information Center, said.

However, the service was down as of Sunday. Sources from the center said the shut down was a response to an overwhelming number of queries submitted last Saturday. The service was flooded, and the center is recruiting a technician to solve the bandwidth problem and maintain the site.

Other critics said that as a government body using public information, the center should not be allowed to charge for use of the system. However, a spokesman for the center said the fee was needed to cover the cost of the system and its maintenance.

Tencent took former employee on court for breaking contract

By Wang Yu

Tencent celebrated its 10-year anniversary Tuesday by charging 15 former employees with breach of contract. One of the men named in Tencent's lawsuit exposed the incident November 6 on Tianya BBS, and called on the company to drop its suit.

The former employee, surname Zhang, is charged with breaching his contract, which prohibits him from working in a competing company for two years after its termination.

Tencent's summons was sent to his hometown rather than his current address. According to the scanned copy which he posted, he must appear on December 26 at the People's Court of Shenzhen, Fudian Division.

Though he admitted the contract contained a two-year non-

competition agreement, Zhang said the clause is being applied arbitrarily. He said he cannot earn a living if he is barred from the entire IT industry for two years.

Tencent defended its clause the next day, calling it necessary to protect its legal rights and interests when employees are approached by rival companies.

It said it paid the former employees all legally required compensation. However, Zhang wrote on his blog that he has not received money from Tencent since the day he quit.

"Based on China's labor contract law, a company can include a non-competition clause in its contract to avoid exposing its core technology to competitors after employees hop jobs," said You Yunting, a lawyer from the Join-Way law firm, which has handled

similar cases.

"However, most companies only wield this clause against senior staff members who have important business information. We saw this when Kaifu Lee moved from Microsoft to Google in 2005," You said.

"IT companies, especially the big ones, put these requirements in their contract. But they never chase down common workers," said Su Mu, a programmer who recently switched jobs between two overseas companies.

One of the key points of Tencent's case is whether or not it paid a compensation. The law mandates that an employer must hold up its end of the non-competition, otherwise it will be nullified.

On November 11, 51.com announced that several of its employees who used to work for

Tencent have received a similar summons. 51.com said it will hire lawyers to defend its employees in the case.

The employees who left Tencent for 51.com did so one at a time since 2006 to avoid suspicion of corporate poaching, a spokesman for 51.com said. Employee poaching is especially common in the IT industry, and Tencent has a reputation of one of the most notorious staff poachers.

"Courts generally disapprove of non-competition agreements as they can limit a former employee's rights to earn a living ... I think Tencent is just trying to make a statement to protect its confidential information. However, two years is too long to ban a young man from the industry," You said.

Cop's family forgives him after 10 years

By Milo Lee

November 3 to 5 is the New Year's holiday of the Yi ethnic group. This year was Laobu Laluo's first time in eight years to celebrate it with his family – many of whom he has arrested.

Laobu, a policeman in Leshan, Sichuan Province, arrested 48 of his relatives suspected of crimes, 25 of whom were sentenced to prison. Locals look up to him as a modern day Baogong, a historic Song Dynasty official praised for upholding justice.

Among this holiday's visitors was Laobu Laqu, his brother – one of the many relatives he arrested.

On March 11, 2000, Laobu Laqu, together with two other cousins, beat up three local teachers while drunk and ran away. When he heard the news, Laobu Laluo could not believe it. He immediately went home to arrest his brother and cousins. His parents cried, his relatives begged, but he took them away anyway.

"I was afraid to return home my first few years on the job," Laobu said. After he arrested his brother and cousins, the whole family was furious. "Some refused to speak to me when we passed on the road," he said.

His arrests were viewed as a disgrace to the family. The suspected cousins' family insulted and threatened his parents. Some even cut off the tails of his parents' cows and slashed their legs.

Today, most of the arrested relatives have been released from prison to put their lives back together. While once they held grudges, today they understand that Laobu was actually trying to save them.

As for accusations that his relatives committed crimes because they thought Laobu was the chief of police, he said, "That's not the case. I am just a cop from a local station. If I didn't arrest them, then my boss would have. I just did what I had to do as a policeman."

Police urge students to hand in knives



CFP Photo

Local police teamed up with schools to urge students from university, middle and primary schools to turn over their knives.

The program runs from this week to December 20. Police will give special lectures to students on legal regulations, and try to increase students' awareness of the dangers of bringing such weapons to schools.

There were many stabbings in Beijing this year. On September 18, one student from China University of Petroleum, stabbed another in his head and neck; on the same day, a student from China University of Information Engineering was killed in a gang fight. Last month, a student stabbed a teacher to death at China University of Political Science and Law.

(By Annie Wei)

Director of the Games honored with a US doctorate

By Zheng Lu

On the 30th anniversary of his college enrollment, director Zhang Yimou received a surprise from Boston University.

Last Friday, Laurie Pohl, vice-principal of Boston University announced the university had chosen to grant Zhang an honorary doctorate in Arts and Humanities. The ceremony was held at Beijing Film Academy (BFA), his alma mater.

Tom Fiedler, dean of the College of Communications, said the panel voted unanimously to select Zhang as the recipient of one of five honorary doctorates. "He has

not only achieved success in film, but has done things for the world with his achievements in directing the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympics and the Paralympics," Fiedler said.

The announcement was slated for next May in the US. However, when the Centre International de Liaison des Ecoles de Cinema et de Television (CILECT) was held in the BFA, Boston University decided to move up its announcement. Two hundred presidents of film colleges from 46 countries came to discuss contemporary film production education and to congratulate Zhang on his new title.

After accepting the doctorate, Zhang addressed the audience and answered questions about the Games for the first time.

Zhang said he understood Steven Spielberg's decision to quit the consultant team. Spielberg was zealous about the Games, but quit soon afterwards. "I have not contacted him since he quit. I do not want to endorse his act, but I do respect his choice."

To prepare for the Olympics, Zhang said he slept four hours per day and held 5,000 meetings. "I had a lifetime's worth of meetings in three years," he said, recalling the exhausting preparations. Zhang

said the stress was unparalleled. "I could not afford to fail, [or] people would curse me and I would have to exile myself overseas," he said.

He regretted how SBS, a Korean TV station, revealed the rehearsal for the Olympics ceremonies. "The scenes they revealed were the best and my favorites. Both I and our directing team were very dejected," Zhang said the ideas took three years to create.

Zhang is the first Chinese filmmaker to receive an honorary doctorate from a US university. Mei Lanfang, the Peking Opera master, accepted an honorary doctorate from Pomona College in 1930.



Zhang is granted an honorary doctorate. CFP Photo



By Venus Lee

The discussions in the past month have cast a gloom over the government's long-awaited proposed medical reform.

Criticism raged from the moment the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) released its draft on October 14. Most of targeted their criticisms on three points: public health services, separation the prescriber from the seller and the source of medicinal supplies.

State-run dominance

"The medical care in my locality is poor, so when my wife was close to delivery, I had her transferred to the provincial hospital in Lanzhou," Teng Zexin, a teacher in Beiwan village in Baiyin, Gansu Province, said.

Teng's problem is one shared by many.

A shortage of medical talent, equipment and facilities makes it difficult for many to get convenient treatment in rural and mountainous areas. Senior doctors and superior equipment is the exclusive domain of big hospitals in bigger cities.

The government has admitted its investment and administration of the country's medical services is insufficient due to the state rerouting most of its revenue for economic development projects since reforms began in the 1980s.

To relieve the unbalanced distribution of medical resources and the public burden, the reform plan clarifies that the government is responsible for its state-run hospitals which play a dominant role in providing basic medical services to the public.

Mao Qun'an, spokesman for the State Health Department, said state-run hospitals are the bulk of the country's care system. The government will increase its investment in them to improve their quality of service.

"The salary of the medical workers will be increased after the government increases its funding of the hospitals. It should help with doctor morale and have a positive influence on hospital conditions in rural areas," Zhang Xiaoran, a doctor in Binhe Hospital, said.

However, there looms a possibility of government monopoly if the state-run hospitals stay dominant, because the government remains tied to hospital management: all public medical institutions are governed by the Ministry of Health.

Liu Guoen, director of the China Center for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (CCPOR) of Peking University, said it is necessary to stipulate that state-run hospitals should remain dominant.

"The reform should ensure that whoever can provide better and less expensive service will play the dominant role. Too much administrative intervention will influence the sustainable development of medical services," he said.

Will a monopoly fix the broken medical chain?



The government hopes that with the chain broken, families may find cheaper medicine in drug stores.

CPF Photos

Power to prescribe

Hospitals began jacking up the price of their medicine when government first pulled its medical funding. To make up the deficit, public health institutions sought revenue by raising the fees of everything left unregulated and aggressively pushing drugs on their patients.

The medicine sold by hospital doctors is also very expensive. "I have to spend 200 to 300 yuan – or even more – at the hospital for a common cold. I earn only 2,000 yuan a month. It is economically crippling to get sick," Duan Qigang, a company clerk, said.

To make their sales, hospitals rely on a campaign to spread fear, uncertainty and doubt about the authenticity and effectiveness of drugs sold outside their walls.

High medicine fees have remained a public woe for decades: a "hot potato" passed between government offices. The guiding principle behind the reform draft is that government must split the power to dispense of medicine from the hospitals. The price of medicine at state-run hospitals is higher than in private drug stores.

However, Professor Zhang, a doctor in Chaoyang Hospital who was unwilling give his full name, said the split will not get to the root of the problem. He likened the relationship between doctor, hospital and drugs to that of soldier, army and weapon. "Even separated, the patients will still

depend on the doctor's prescription to buy medicine. The link between the hospital and vendor will remain. The risks of self medication are too dangerous," Zhang said.

The separation will certainly affect the hospital's economic interest. Their wholesale channels are not standardized, and the same medicines produced by different companies have different prices.

"Many doctors write big prescriptions to earn money on the difference and get a kickback from the manufacturer. Once separated, the hospital's profit margins will be depressed," Li Yuan, a retired pharmacist from Gannan Hospital, said.

To break the doctors' monopoly on prescriptions and the hospitals' monopoly on medicine, the source of hospital profits must change.

"The hospital should offer competitive medical treatment instead of relying on kickbacks for pushing expensive drugs," Liu Guoen, director of CCPOR, said.

If distribution is entirely separated from the hospitals, the manufacturers will lose their link to where distribution begins: prescription. Patients can reduce the costs on their own by buying medicine from the drug store, where it is more affordable.

"They have to be split to support the needs of ordinary people. Seeing the doctor should be a positive experience, not an economic crisis," Duan said.



Visits to doctors at hospitals are never free of long lines.



State-run hospitals remain the top primary care facilities.

Government monopoly

The proposed health care system includes a catalog of basic medicines that would be produced and distributed under government control and supervision. Its goal is to ensure accessibility and to prevent manufacturers and businessmen from circumventing existing price controls.

It would standardize hospital care channels and put retail prices of basic medicine under government supervision. "The hospitals can't increase their prices at random, and the public won't have to worry about unreasonable fees," Li Yuan, a pharmacist, said.

For big pharmaceutical companies, the new plan means more opportunities to secure lucrative government orders.

"Standard regulations will make it easier for reputable medicine manufacturers to bid for and win government orders," Yuan Kai, manager of Jiashiyufeng Medicine Company, said. Assuming these bids are conducted in the open, they should cut out the middle men who drive up medicine prices and ensure rural areas have access to safe medicine, he said.

However, Wang Jinxia, secretary-general of the China Association of Pharmaceutical Commerce (CAPC), says it will only pave the road for a government monopoly. "The production, supply, distribution and retail of the medicine are an industry chain. There is no need for the government to organize another system to assign its own channels of production, purchase and sale," she said.

Online manhunt Internet lynching?

Behave yourself in China, otherwise you might face a band of angry netizens hungry for virtual lynching.



Renrou searches have become a trend amid controversy that they are violating privacy.

CFP Photo

Forget the FBI, Interpol or Jack Bauer. No one tracks down an offender as fast as China's online vigilantes.

Lin Jiaxiang, a maritime safety official from Shenzhen, became the latest target of the charmingly named "human flesh search engine" – the mass Internet pursuit, some say witch hunt, of those accused of bad behavior. In Lin's case, security camera footage of his row with a man whose 11-year-old daughter he was accused of grabbing led to his swift identification and sacking.

The practice is not unique to China; only the graphic name. But with the world's largest Internet population of more than 250 million, it has proven particularly effective.

Show an official abusing his position, a woman crushing kittens with high heels,

or simply a student boasting of her luxurious life as a mistress, and outraged citizens swing into action, closely analyzing photos or quotes for the tiniest clues to their identity or whereabouts. The notorious kitten killer of Hangzhou was unmasked by hundreds of Internet users who traced her through an eBay purchase of stilettos.

She lost her job shortly afterwards, as the virtual anger spilled over into real life. Others have suffered paint-soaked walls and feces-covered doorsteps, as well as death threats and abuse by phone, email and fax; though not physical attacks, which suggests that even the angriest participants observe limits.

That does not make it easier for targets, especially when the search zeroes in on the wrong person. A Tibetan living in the US was deluged with abusive phone calls and emails

after he was wrongly named as the man who tried to grab the Olympic flame from Paralympian Jin Jing in Paris.

But one, at least, is fighting back. Wang Fei, a Beijing resident, was vilified after his wife killed herself and relatives blamed his alleged affair with a colleague. He is now suing the Internet sites that hosted the search.

In 2007, when Jiang Yan, Wang's wife, jumped to her death from her flat's window after finding out that her husband was having an affair, she left behind her blog. The contents of this "death blog" were quickly posted online. Many netizens hounded Wang after reading posts copied from the blog. Then they traced Wang's home address and other private information, and continued the harassment in real life. (The Guardian)

Expert view

"The Internet has given people anonymity and power without the responsibility strings. Nobody knows who you are, so you don't have to take responsibility for your actions," said an Internet professional, who declined to be named for fear of reprisal from the Renrou search engine.

"I'm sure that many of Wang Fei's attackers are his colleagues or friends who have access to Wang's personal information," he said, adding that to become popular, some Web sites deliberately add fuel to a controversy posted on their pages.

"Netizens should be cautious online, especially when registering. Don't give out your personal information," he added.

A survey by the *China Youth Daily* showed that 79.9 percent of 2,491 netizens polled believed that Renrou searches should be regulated, and 24.8 percent supported legislation to restrict it.

However, Chai Rong, a law professor at the Beijing Normal University (BNU), said that even if a law controlling Renrou searches were drafted, it would be hard to enact.

"Take Wang Fei's case as an example. You can't decide who played a more important role in ferreting out his information. In fact, every netizen contributed to the result. As for the girl condemning the earthquake victims, her behavior deviated from social ethics and she would be publicly humiliated anyway," Chai said.

Xia Yang, an associate professor at the BNU law school, suggested that real names be required when surfing the Internet.

"We currently don't have legislation protecting privacy in China," he said. "Chinese netizens are not mature enough to control their own online behavior."

He pointed out that Renrou searches nonetheless played an important role in society.

(By Huang Daohen)

Insiders feel optimistic for human flesh search

By Huang Daohen

No one could be more familiar with the "human flesh search engine" than Li Rui, a software engineer at Mop.com, Chinese entertainment Web site considered to be the origin.

Li, 29, gets excited whenever he talks about the "Renrou search engine." Zhou Zhenglong, a farmer from Shaanxi Province, claimed to have taken a photo of the rare South China Tiger last year, but he never expected netizens to find the original picture 35 days later and expose him as a fraud, Li said.

"Our Renrou search engine played an important role in finding out the truth about the 'paper tiger' event," he said. Local authorities finally admitted that the photograph was a fake and Zhou was arrested.

Renrou means "human flesh" in Chinese, and "Renrou search engine" refers to an Internet mob that hunts down offenders online, digs out facts about them and exposes them, according to

Baidu Zhidao.

To do this, netizens use the Internet and conventional search engines. The model has some similarities with Wikipedia, which attracts 10 million hits every day and pools netizens' answers to a question.

Li said Renrou began in 2001, when a netizen posted on Mop.com a photo of an attractive woman, claiming she was his girlfriend. Others soon found out that the woman was a model and publicized her personal information as proof that he was lying.

Renrou became a catchphrase in the ensuing years, with this year seeing a peak in "human flesh" searches, triggered by a man who disrupted the torch relay in Paris and stirred anger across the country.

Li has some concerns, however, with netizens' response. "Do they really have insightful opinions? Just because young Chinese people can access the Internet does not mean they have all the information they need to make critical judgments and evaluations," he said.

He said some netizens have nothing meaningful to say. Comments are often monosyllabic and short, and rarely thought-provoking. Often, they are simply "Ding," the Chinese netspeak equivalent of "bump," or "Niu!" meaning awesome.

To counteract some of Renrou's adverse effects, Mop has established a union that would keep watch over netizen posts in its forum. "We started recruiting talents and rewarding them with virtual currency if the information they post is true," Li said.

Li also revealed that the site is drafting a Renrou search pact to regulate netizens' behavior, and it will be reviewed by legal experts.

Though questions about Renrou remain, Li feels optimistic about its future. "In Chinese we say, 'more workers make the job easier.' In the same way, a greater number of people can help solve a problem that a lone person would not be able to handle," Li said. "The search actually reflects the development of society and the popularization of the Internet."

Questions linger about gov's big stimulus package

By Huang Daohen

The government announced last Sunday it will launch a 4 trillion yuan (US \$586 billion) economic stimulus plan for infrastructure and social welfare over the next two years to maintain economic growth.

The 4-trillion-yuan package will be spent in building more highways, railroads and airports, as well as ensuring rural areas have better access to water, electricity and power, according to the announcement.

The government Wednesday unveiled a slew of infrastructure projects and increased export rebates for the third time in recent months.

The State Council has also officially announced a loosening of monetary policy.

The news boosted the A-share market, Asian stock markets and the prices of petroleum and other bulk commodities.

Economists say the government wanted to deliver a strong signal about its spending plans before the official October data were released.

"Sunday's unusually strong statements suggest the authorities are very eager to boost private sector confidence by making a very strong commitment to maintaining strong growth," Kang Yan, partner and general manager of Roland Berger China, said.

Zhao Xiao, an economics professor at the University of Science and Technology

Beijing, thinks due to the multiplier effect, fiscal investment will encourage more private investment.

Government investment only accounts for about 20 percent of the total investment, he said. To reach the total investment of 4 trillion yuan, it needs only to invest 800 billion to 1 trillion yuan.

These funds will be invested over two fiscal years, so it will not put heavy pressure on the fiscal budget balance, Zhao said.

As for the present lack of investment willingness among companies, Zhao said the problem is not insufficient production, but a production capacity surplus. The effect of the investment made this year will be seen next year, he said.

However, Zhao said questions remain about the fiscal package. The authorities said investment would go to 10 target areas including roads and education, but gave no details about how exactly the money would be spent.

The source of the new funding is also unclear. Zhao said only a quarter of the investment might come from direct public spending, with the rest coming from state-owned enterprises and banks. But there will be risks if banks expand their loan books too quickly, he added.

Winners and losers from China's boost

China's economic stimulus plan may have lifted sentiment toward global growth, commodities and related stocks, but some market strategists were quick Monday to identify potential losers from the plan, starting with US consumers and Treasury debt.

"News of China's massive economic stimulus plan has helped markets worldwide, but for the US the impact will be reduced by a number of important factors," said Tony Crescenzi, market strategist at Miller Tabak.

"For starters, China must finance its plan, which could mean it will have to either sell its holdings of US Treasury and agency securities or slow its rate of accumulation in these securities," Crescenzi said.

China holds roughly US \$1 trillion of US securities, according to data provided by Miller Tabak.

Massive selling of those securities, at a time when the US government is expected to issue large amounts of debt to finance its own economic stimulus

measures, could further raise borrowing costs, such as mortgage rates, which are benchmarked to bond yields.

On Monday, however, bonds rallied, sending yields higher, as US stocks reversed earlier gains and the government successfully sold US \$25 billion in three-year notes.

The immediate market beneficiaries of China's plan were evident overnight and early Monday. Led by miners and other commodities-related stocks, Asian and European markets rallied after Beijing unveiled the package, which is heavily focused on infrastructure spending.

"While unlikely to have an immediate effect, this is clearly to be positive for sentiment and, in time, commodity demand," analysts at Numis Securities said.

Credit Suisse analysts said that accelerated infrastructure spending in China will benefit European steelmakers, especially early-cycle firms such as Luxembourg-based ArcelorMittal.

(MarketWatch)

Int'l jewellery fair opens



The 2008 China International Jewellery Fair kicked off Tuesday in Beijing. Golden decorations and ornaments attracted many visitors from home and abroad. CFP Photo

Trade surplus hits new record

The nation's trade surplus grew to another record last month as exports continued to show greater than expected resilience in the face of a global slowdown.

The sensitive trade surplus, which stood at record levels in September, grew a further 20 percent last month to US \$35.2 billion after a modest reduction in the growth rate of exports was accompanied by a sharper drop in import growth.

The government released further evidence of slowing domestic demand, including another drop in house prices and further softening in consumer price inflation.

China to become DHL's biggest express market

The country is set to become DHL's largest market in terms of express service volume after the company moves out of the US, Wu Dongming, managing director of DHL-Sinotrans, a joint venture of DHL and Sinotrans, said Tuesday.

This announcement came after DHL announced Monday it was scheduled to end its services in the US domestic market.

The company occupies about 34 percent of China's express service market, beating rivals FedEx and UPS.

"DHL will continue making investments in infrastructure, skills training and service upgrading, to consolidate its leading position in China," Wu said.

Bank of China eyes HBOS bid

The Bank of China has emerged as a potential bidder for an alternative takeover of HBOS, a banking and insurance group in the UK.

The BBC said the bank was in "early talks" with former HBOS executive Jim Spowart and investment company European American Capital over a possible counter bid to the proposed takeover by Lloyds TSB, another UK competitor.

"We took a decision early on to neither confirm or deny which bank was behind any potential bid," Spowart told *The Scotsman*.

The report emerged as a former bank chief insisted the current offer by Lloyds TSB was "no longer the best deal." (Agencies)

Troubled GM continues to invest in China

Troubled General Motors said Wednesday that it was making money in China and was continuing its investments in the large Asian market.

"We are continuing our investment in China and actually we are very profitable," said Henry Wong, a Shanghai-based spokesman for the US auto maker.

He said various investment projects GM had committed itself to in the past were "all on target and on track."

These included expansion projects for existing plants in the cities of Qingdao and

Yantai, both in Shandong Province, he said.

"We are not withdrawing or holding back any investment in China," he said.

He declined to comment on reports in the local media that it planned to increase its 34-percent stake in SAIC-GM-Wuling, a joint venture that produces commercial vehicles.

"I will not speculate on where money will come from for future investments. Right now it's too early to talk about that," he said.

On Monday, GM chief executive Rick Wagoner said the US auto maker was

in such dire financial straits that it needed to line up a federal aid package before president-elect Barack Obama takes office in January.

"This is an issue that needs to be addressed urgently," Wagoner told Automotive News, adding that now is the time to "overshoot, not undershoot" the level of assistance.

GM said it needs cash reserves of between US \$11 and \$14 billion to cover its cost of operations.

(Agencies)

Artificial tree at old temple irritates visitors

By Zhang Dongya

Visitors who travel to Dajue Temple are astonished when they find out that the temple's ancient pine tree has been replaced with an artificial one. It is a fake tree? and Why? are the questions commonly heard.

Dajue Temple, or the Temple of Enlightenment, built about 1,000 years ago, is one of the city's famed imperial temples. The centuries-old pine was located at a well-known spot in the temple, the Songbai Baota, which means "a pine and a cypress embracing a tower." The tower referred to is a Buddhist tower built during the reign of Qianlong in the Qing Dynasty. At that time, a pine and a cypress flanked the tower.

The old pine was damaged by pests, and in 1991, was put under the list of endangered trees. After years of treatment, which cost as much as 170,000 yuan, the tree died in 2003. To keep the integrity of the site, the temple decided to make a replica of the pine two years ago.

The substitute tree is about 14 meters high and made of synthetic materials like epoxy resin and fiberglass. "When I knocked on the trunk, it made a loud sound since it was hollow," said Yang Feilong, editor of the *Chinese Heritage Magazine*, who visited the temple last week. "It was my second time to visited Dajue Temple and I felt disappointed when I found out the old tree has been replaced."

Lu Shun, an entrepreneur who has spent seven years photographing Beijing's old trees, said he had taken pictures of the old pine and the cypress several times.

"When I visited the temple in 2006, the old pine was dying, and had only bare branches left. But I took a picture of it. However, the next time I came, I found out it had been replaced an artificial one," he said.

Sun Rongfen, the director of the Dajue Temple's administrative department, said it cost more than 200,000 yuan to replace the old pine, and that the decision had been approved by local authorities.



People visiting the spot are astonished by the fake tree.

Photo by Chen Bai

Comment

Dead tree also a witness to history

The ancient tree was described as a "green cultural relic" or "living fossil." It was a witness to the city's history and its great changes. Even if it perished, it could still represent old times, but a fake one cannot.

— Lu Shun, photographer of The Album of Beijing Ancient Trees

Landscape should be pleasing

Compared to a dead ugly tree, I prefer the artificial one, especially since

it's a good copy of the original. The trees and the tower made up a scenic spot that spoke to us of history. Our generation cannot go back to the old times, but we would like to "see" it and to "touch" it.

If a lifeless tree stands there, I will take it as a wound on history which will make me sad.

— Olivia Roth, French artist studying at the Central University for Nationalities

A fake tree is cheating

A tree has life, like human beings. It is natural for a tree to lose its life. Therefore, just explain the truth to us, especially people like us who love the old temple so much. The fake tree is a form of cheating. It is worse than a young tree, for a young tree can grow up to be an old tree after one hundred years, but a fake tree will remain fake no matter how long it remains.

— Yang Feilong, editor of the Chinese Heritage Magazine

Debate of the week

CCTV's new headquarters desperate for a new name

By Milo Lee

A good name can sometimes spell fame or obscurity for a building. Names like the Pentagon, the Bird's Nest and Big Ben have contributed to these structures' fame. So when the new headquarters of China Central Television (CCTV) began to be called "Big Shorts," because of its shape, CCTV was hardly happy.

The news that CCTV wanted a name's change came out when a memo was circulated among its employees. Nobody has come up with a better one so far. Some netizens think CCTV is making too big a deal over "Big Shorts," while others agree that the name is degrading.

"I don't think it matters what the name is, the new headquarters is still a masterpiece. People nicknamed it 'Big Shorts' because they like it, and I don't think this name will disappear just because a new one is found," Zhang Huili, an intern at CCTV, said.

Since construction began in 2004, the building's radical shape has attracted a lot of attention. People have given all sorts of nicknames to the shorts-shaped skyscraper — the Bird's Legs, the Twist — but none are considered befitting the image of a national television station.

Gong Li becomes hot topic after citizenship change

By Milo Lee

The next time actress Gong Li's name appears on a film's end credits, it will be followed by a bracket with the word Singapore in it, because on November 8, she was officially granted Singapore citizenship after marrying Singaporean tobacco tycoon, Ooi Hoe Soeng, in 1996.

Gong's change of citizenship raised the ire of many Chinese fans. In an online survey, nearly 60 percent of respondents voted against her move, saying it is unpatriotic. Zhang Ping, an avid fan of Gong's, expressed frustration over Gong becoming a foreigner. "I have seen every movie of hers, and China is very lucky to have an actress like Gong, but now, she is a Singaporean. It is a great loss to China."

Compared to other netizens' comments, what Zhang said can be viewed as a compliment. Angry comments like "traitor" can be seen on many web sites. A Sina.com netizen wrote: "Gong needs to learn a little from Chow Yun-Fat or Jackie Chan. They have lived in foreign countries much longer than Gong and achieved much more, why have they not changed their citizenship?"

But some heads remained cool over this issue. Many pundits said people should not focus too much on the change of citizenship in today's world climate. "A change in citi-

zenship is not the symbol of a country's cultural failure. If Jackie Chan can come into international prominence in Hollywood, why can't Gong become a Singaporean?" Shi Jia, Beijing scholar, said.

Earlier this month, news of China's most famous funnyman, Zhao Benshan, becoming a Canadian citizen also triggered discussions about celebrity loyalty. But it was soon confirmed to be a rumor.

Gov officer call for condoms in school bags

By Wang Yu

Most Chinese parents will be astonished by the words of Duan Jianhua, vice director of Guangzhou's Bureau of Population and Family Planning, who said parents should put condoms in their children's school bags when kids reach the age of 12.

Duan said this on November 8 at a talk on local students' sex education, part of a lecture series ahead of the Guangzhou Sex Culture Festival.

In Guangzhou, children start being curious about sex at the age of 12 — younger than they did three years ago, the official said. Parents and teachers should not chastise students when they begin to experiment with sex, but instead communicate to teenagers the right concept of sex, he said.

As one of the country's most developed provinces and the first beneficiary of its economic reform policies, Guangzhou has held

the Sex Culture Festival every year, since 2003. The event was established to start people talking in public about a topic considered taboo. But this year, the entrance fee climbed to 30 yuan per person, triple the fee in 2006, to control the number of visitors and to keep children out.

Sex education in the country has long been a topic of public debate. Most people around the age of 25 learned about sex by themselves. "I learned almost everything about sex from pirated porn movies when I was in middle school. That was not the right way of course, but our parents and teachers were not willing to talk about it," Vincent Wen, a 25-year-old network engineer, said.

Though Duan, the Guangzhou official, meant to raise attention on sex education with his comment about condoms, some think that giving children birth control is a form of permissiveness. "What does a condom mean? To tell kids it is a thing to prevent pregnancy or to say, you are old enough to have sex? There must be some misunderstanding if a mother chooses to do that," Guo Haihong, a Guangdong columnist, said in his blog.

But there is no doubt sex education is still a weak point in China's education system and traditional moral concepts cannot be updated in just a few years. "Chinese people usually do not talk about such things directly. How to change public opinion is the key point of my comments," Guo said.

Tattooed pigs and the real value of art



Tattooing a pig Photos provided by Xia Jie



Wim Delvoye spends time with his tattooed pigs at the Art Farm.

By Jackie Zhang

Wim Delvoye's artwork comes in various forms, but his tattooed pigs are the ones that closely connect him with China. The Art Farm, located in Shunyi, is where the pigs live and where they get the tattoos that transform them from sources of pork to pieces of art. A piece of tattooed pig skin can fetch as much as 1 million yuan overseas.

Why tattoo on pigs

There are currently 12 pigs on the farm and most of them have colorful patterns on their skin. "These are the last tattooed pigs on the farm since 2004, when the farm started," Xia Jie, Delvoye's assistant, said. "Wim decided to stop the work here in China, so I believe the price of these pigs' skin will rise rapidly."

The Art Farm is the only one of its kind in China – but not in the world. There are also tattooed pig farms in San Francisco, Moscow and many places in Belgium.

How did Delvoye become interested in tattooing pigs in the first place? "The pigs are about growing. We are growing art. We are not producing art but growing and harvesting art," said Delvoye, a native of Belgium. In his opinion, the tattooed pigs are also a commentary on how people want art to grow in value. "Everybody wants a yield. People expect profit from art. People keep their savings in pigs," he said.

The farm in Shunyi is not big and currently employs six people: three tattooists and three caretakers. Pig skin is very similar to human skin, said Xia, the assistant. "The only difference is that I'm tattooing a pig, not a man," Mu Daiqian, one of the tattooists, said.

A commentary on brand names

Among the designs on Delvoye's pigs are Disney cartoon characters and paintings of well-known artists.

"I noticed that cartoon characters are a favorite in tattoos. People wear tattoos because they believe there is a deeper meaning in them. It means something to people, but once the same images are done on a pig, they become quite empty of their original meaning. The wishes and dreams of people become a bit ridiculous once they are done

on a pig," Delvoye said.

He also likes to use logos of famous brands. He thinks big brands and corporate logos colonize people's minds. They are everywhere, like visual pollution, he said. "LV is so omnipresent that some people would not think leather is real without an LV logo," he said. "I just think it is funny to tattoo LV on a pig. Are we consumer slaves or are the pigs consumer slaves? I like to be critical by being radically complicit," he said.

Digestive systems and X-rays

Another two works by Delvoye are the Cloaca and the X-rays series. Cloaca is an elaborate, room-sized installation that replicates the human digestive system. It is fed a variety of nutritious meals twice daily. Then it chews, swallows, digests and eliminates the food. In the X-rays series, Delvoye has combined church buildings with X-rays of humans. The churches' stained glass windows are substituted with X-ray films.

"They are both works about things you normally cannot see," Delvoye said. "Cloaca and X-rays are about everybody. If you are Chinese or Western, if you are male or female, if you are rich or poor, Cloaca speaks to you. Also X-rays make people all equal. Everybody has beautiful bowels and everybody is equally beautiful in an X-ray machine," he said.

Delvoye hopes to touch everybody through his art, and in his mind, Cloaca makes this happen. Everybody shits, so everybody can understand Cloaca, he said. "I don't think an artist needs to be a savant to be successful at making art. But I'd like to prove to myself that I can do something better than just making art," he said. "When I was a child I wanted to be a doctor or a banker, but my parents told me to be an artist. So somehow I want to prove to myself that I am more than an artist by making art that involves science."

Delvoye's plan next year plan is to make mental scale models, and later construct on real buildings. "I like to make structures in the Gothic or Arabian style, or both styles at the same time. Like the tattooed pigs, they will be about ornamentation."

going from," he said.

The collaboration with different people was an unforgettable experience for John. "There were a lot of hurdles along the way. The pyramids were broken down and the cast had problems. You must redesign things. This is what a musical is like," he said. "A musical is something I really knew nothing about, and I learned a lot from it."

people will say, 'How dare you do this,'" he said.

John wrote the music in Atlanta in 1998 and finished the demo reel in 22 days. With the help of his keyboard programmer, he wrote the song in piano track down to the drum track, and did the vocals himself. "I wrote the theme of the love story first, then I wrote it into the running order, so it makes you know what thing to thing you're



Love triangle in the musical. Photo provided by Fanscene Studio

Aida Elton John's newest challenge

By He Jianwei

"Everyone's opinion was asked. That had its own logic, but was a dangerous step for me," Elton John, the world famous singer and composer of Broadway musical *Aida*, said before the start of the production's Beijing tour.

Based on the opera of the same name by Giuseppe Verdi, *Aida* is a classic tale of love, loyalty and betrayal. It is John and Tim Rice's first collaboration since their work together on the 1994 Disney hit *The Lion King*. *Aida* will be staged at the Beijing Exhibition Center Theater from November 19 to 23.

"*Aida* is the first record I wrote for the stage, a classic love trian-

gle with contemporary music," John said. "I've been writing love songs my whole life, but this is the first time I composed songs telling an amazing story from start to finish."

At first, the songwriter did not want to work on the musical since it was already an opera. After he read the story, however, he was moved. "I was very excited about the prospect. I knew it would be hard work and I knew it would be a big collaboration," John said.

But his anxieties remained because of the huge following of Verdi operas. "I have a sense of danger that we are going to be compared with the opera and

British entrepreneurial spirit recognized



Johnson-Hill embraces his wife upon being named Entrepreneur of the year.

Photo by Ben McMillan

By Jackie Zhang

An award that recognized British entrepreneurs and enterprises in China named its first winners last week. Dominic Johnson-Hill was named Entrepreneur of the Year for his achievements in his T-shirt business, while AstraZeneca China, a pharmaceutical company, won as Company of the Year.

The awards, organized by the British Chamber of Commerce in China and launched in May, received over 100 nominees. The names were eventually shortlisted to five finalists for each of the six award categories: company, individual, innovative product or service, corporate social responsibility program, young icebreaker and alumnus. The on-line voting round,

which was taken into account in the final decision-making, drew 2,600 votes from across the country.

Johnson-Hill, who was recognized as Entrepreneur of the Year, said he was "surprised" when he found out he won. "We were up against some of the best entrepreneurs in the world. We really didn't expect to win. We were just so honored to be on the short list. When they read out 'Plastered T-shirts,' the emotion was incredible," he said.

Johnson-Hill has been in Beijing for 16 years and in that time has worked in different fields, including teaching, translation and market research. He put up his Plastered T-shirt business to create a Beijing street brand and to celebrate everything he loves about the city.

"I have always believed that plastered T-shirts could achieve brand status in China and that's why I put all my time and passion into our brand," he said. "I never thought about winning an award. It's not really something that crosses your

mind when building a business and working hard at it everyday."

"We started our business very small and with only a tiny investment and have grown significantly over the last three years through pushing a creative idea, through innovation. We hope we can inspire more entrepreneurs and creative people to push their ideas to new levels," Johnson-Hill said.

Wu Huanling, senior vice president for corporate affairs of AstraZeneca China, said she was delighted at their being named Company of the Year. "AstraZeneca has been honored a number of times by Chinese award-giving bodies, but this is the first time it's coming from the British side. It is really a large encouragement to us," she said.

There are more than 6,000 British enterprises in China, according to the British Chamber of Commerce. "This award is good to encourage them and to let more Chinese people know about the innovative British spirit," Nigel Clark, the chamber's chairman said.

Building a network to foster academic communication

By He Jianwei

Over 100 Chinese graduates from Freie Universität Berlin got together for the first time last Saturday to discuss cooperative academic projects between China and Germany.

The university has three major projects in three Chinese universities. "We have a German Study Center co-founded with Beijing University, which is related to eight different disciplines. Our task is to train experts in Germany and make a bilateral academic cooperation in the social sciences," Dieter Lenzen, the president of the university, said.

The second one is a geological project with Nanjing University, while the last is a project with Fudan University in Shanghai on the topics of global politics and international relations.

Freie also works with China's Confucius Institute to train educators teaching Chinese in Germany. "Next year, Chinese will be one of the choices as a second foreign language in 28 middle schools in Germany," Lenzen said.

The university has already opened a liaison office in Beijing to help the academic communication between the two countries. "The office can provide more information about our university to Chinese students, professors and institutions. We can also help German students, professors and institutions who want to study or do research in China," Lenzen said.

Meanwhile, the university hopes its alumni will create an effective local network. "More than 85 percent of our graduates work in natural and social sciences. They are experts or academicians. We hope they will have more opportunities to do projects not only in the same discipline, but also in different areas through the network of alumni," Lenzen said.

"We did not have the contact list of graduates from our university. We found their address and numbers through the Internet. We have already gotten in touch with 300 graduates in China," Thomas Schmidt-Dorr, the university's representative in Beijing, said.

Shen Zanmin, a professor from the College of Veterinary Medicine in Nanjing Agricultural University, hopes that through her alumni network, she can carry out projects in multiple fields such as food safety and national security.

EU film festival comes to Beijing

By Han Manman

The EU Film Festival is coming to China for the first time next month.

The festival, which runs from December 1 to 20, will be held at various venues in Beijing. The event, taking place under the French presidency of the EU, is co-organized and co-financed by the Delegation of the European Commission to China and the French Embassy in Beijing.

All 27 EU member-states

have been invited to showcase one recent, popular and successful film, and such a wide and diverse selection will enable the public to better get to know European cinema.

Each movie will be shown once only, with screenings at the French Cultural Center, Cervantes Institute, the Italian Institute of Culture and the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art. Each film will be screened in its original language with English and Chinese subtitles.

the Beijinger
www.thebeijinger.com presents

Tsingtao Brewery Tour & Tasting

Sample Tsingtao Draught Beer the way it was meant to be ...

Freshly Brewed

(No Trip to Qingdao Required!)

Enjoy an On Site Tour, Draft vs Bottle Taste Test,
AND ALL THE FRESH TSINGTAO YOU CAN DRINK FOR JUST **RMB 50!***



Where: TSINGTAO Beer Palace

DS-19, SOLANA, 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Xilu (east side of Lucky Street/Haoyun Jie), Chaoyang District (5905 6018/19)
青岛啤酒坊 朝阳区朝阳公园西路6号 SOLANA 招商中心 DS-19

When: Saturday, November 22, 2008 19:00-22:00

What: Tour Tsingtao Beer Palace's microbrewery, test your taste buds and win great prizes with a blind tasting of bottled versus draft beer, and drink all the home-made beer you want!

To Register: Please contact Joe at 58207700 ext.866
or marketing@thebeijinger.com
(Maximum 220 people, space is limited)

*Advanced ticket required. Tickets will be on sale at the door for RMB 70.

青岛啤酒坊

Digital media exhibition with a green theme

By Annie Wei

An international digital media exhibition to promote environmentalism opened at the Beijing Huan Tie Art Museum last Sunday. Organized by Common Ground, an online community of artists, designers, galleries, curators, art patrons, art institutions and art lovers, the exhibit promotes concern for the environment through visual art and new media design.

"The Earth is our common ground. We may be divided by borders, language and cultural identity,

but we still share the same water, air, plants and the same ground that sustains, protects and feeds us all," Larry Richard, founder of Common Ground, said. Held every two years, the exhibit visits the city hosting the Summer or Winter Olympic Games that year.

The opening reception last Sunday showcased works from 40 countries, a special selection by 20 Chinese artists and screened several innovative films. Apart both artists and international artists were present at the event,

including Amalia Pellegrini from India and Dorothea Beer-kramer from Germany.

Duan Jia, a professor at the Beijing Film Academy, explained the meaning of one of her artworks, a photo with blurred images of fire: "Most of us see ways in which the environment is hurt, and sometimes we are given a chance to correct our mistakes. This is how we survive and go on living in the face of overwhelming despair."

Common Ground will be coming out with coffee table books

featuring pieces presented at the exhibit. All proceeds from the book sale will be donated to Common Ground's non-profit partners World Wildlife Fund, Global Giving and the Global Environmental Institute.

The Common Ground collection will next go on an international tour of galleries and museums in Europe and North America.

Where: Huan Tie Art Museum, Dashanzi ring railway, Chaoyang District.

Tel: 6435 0952

Event

The piano meets the erhu

Formed nearly eight years ago, the piano duo of Katia Krivokochenko and Francois Gassion have gained a reputation for playing one piano simultaneously, creating four-hand renditions of Debussy, Bizet, Rachmaninoff and Prokofiev and most recently, Mozart and Samuel Barber. In Beijing, the duo will meet on stage with erhu virtuoso Li Han, from the Beijing Central Conservatory of Music, for an exceptional musical collaboration.

Where: Central Conservatory of Music, 43 Baojia Jie, Xicheng District

When: November 15, 7:30 pm

Cost: Free tickets available at the Alliance Francaise from November 7

Tel: 6553 2678 ext 209

Conference:

Simone de Beauvoir

On the occasion of Simone de Beauvoir's centenary, two specialists on her work, Danele Sallenave and Canadian journalist Madeleine Gobeil-Noel, will talk about the influence of the most famous French female writer of the last century. They will retrace the development of her work, at the crossroads of the major historical, literary, philosophical and political trends of her age.

When: November 18, 6:30 pm

Where: French Cultural Center, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

Cost: Free

Tel: 6553 2678 ext 209

Open Hearts Open Doors: Reflections on China's Past and Future

Open Hearts Open Doors, a book by educator and fine art photographer Elizabeth Gill Lui, presents photographs shot by the artist between 1995 and 2007, exploring the relationship between Chinese citizens and their unique, and dramatically changing architectural heritage.

When: November 18, 7:30 pm

Where: The Bookworm, 4 Sanlitun Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

Cost: 20 yuan for members, 30 yuan for non-members

Tel: 6586 9507

(By Wei Ying)

Playhouse warms up for a Xmas show



Beijing Playhouse rehearses the Dickens classic.

Photo provided by Beijing Playhouse

By Gan Tian

Twenty-five actors and actresses from Beijing Playhouse, China's version of Broadway, met last Sunday to promote their holiday offering, *A Christmas Carol*. The play, based on the Charles Dickens classic, will be staged from December 5 to 28 at the Beijing theater, in English with Chinese subtitles.

Beijing Playhouse put together an international cast

for the play, including Chinese and overseas Chinese actors. This will be the debut English performance of Kitty Lee, a native Beijinger who has performed in local dramas and musicals.

Brandon Blackburn-Dwyer, the director, said he wishes the play will "become the focal point of the journey to our favorite memory of Christmas." Blackburn-Dwyer has been directing, producing and performing on Broadway for 15 years.

A Christmas Carol will be staged on Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 pm, with Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Tickets are 260 yuan in advance and 300 yuan at the door. For reservations, email Beijing Playhouse's box office at performance@beijingplayhouse.com.

The theater group has arranged special dinners at nearby restaurants for people coming to watch the play. Med and Haiku restaurant, both located in the same com-

plex as the theater, have prepared holiday menus.

Email the box office for dinner reservations: performance@beijingplayhouse.com.

Beijing Playhouse has presented such Broadway favorites as *Guys and Dolls*, *Love Letters* and Neil Simon's hilarious comedy *The Odd Couple*.

The theater production will stage Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* next year.

BEIJING TODAY

serving **An English weekly** the expat community

Expat News

Stories of the city's expats

Commerce & Consulates

Promoting unity between all peoples

Community

Building a harmonious international society

News U can use

Helping each other, progressing together

BEIJING TODAY

今日北京

Published every Friday, 24 pages
selling at China Post Newsstands
2 Yuan per copy and 104 Yuan for one year subscription
Sending your info(name, delivery address, post code, Tel) by email to get 2 weeks Beijing Today for free
Tel: 010-65902526, 65902626 Email: btsubscription@ynet.com

88 YUAN!

subscribe before Dec 31

Free bike rentals start next month in expat areas

By Han Manman

Beijingers can now rent a bicycle without forking out any money: all they have to do is show an ID. This rental scheme, called the "microcirculation system of public bicycles," will be available to locals and expats next month at the Maizidian Community in Chaoyang District, the Beijing Foreign Studies University and some hotels in the area.

City-wide service by 2009

"Within one year, free bicycle rental stations will be established in all communities across Beijing," Li Weiwei, president of Ibike Media Beijing, said. The company announced last Friday an ambitious plan to make 40,000-50,000 bikes available for free by the end of 2009.

The rampant theft of bicycles, however, continues to be a nuisance. Every family in Beijing or other Chinese cities has lost at least one bike.

There have been repeated crackdowns on bicycle thefts nationwide, but people continue to be wary of leaving their bikes, especially new ones, on the street.

Ibikes has come up with a solu-



Beijing FarEast International Youth Hotel at Xuanwu District has started to offer free rental bikes.

Photo provided by Ibike Media Beijing

tion to the problem. "Our bikes are not available in regular shops and look different from common bicycles. A GPS tracking device will be installed in each bike to make sure it's not lost or stolen," Li said.

How to rent

Anyone aged 16 and above can rent a bicycle, Li said. All the person needs to do is present his or her *shenfenzheng* (citizen identification card), driver's license or passport. The person also needs to write down his or her phone

number and take out an "honesty card," which will include him or her in the company's system. With the card, the person can rent a bike from any rental station.

"The resident won't have to worry about losing the rented bicycle as long as the person parks it in a designated place. If the bike is lost there, the renter won't be responsible. Even if anything goes wrong with a bike, it will be repaired free of charge unless it is vandalized," Li said.

The person renting the bike can also use the "honesty card" to extend the rental period. But those who return bikes late without giving any advance notice will be put on the company's blacklist and will no longer be allowed to rent a bike.

The system will build on the already existing "Beijing Bicycle Rental" stations that exist across the city and that currently rent out bikes for around 20 yuan per day.

Diplomatic files from 1961-1965 open to public

By Annie Wei

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has opened to the public 70 percent of its 41,000 files from 1961 to 1965. Chinese archival regulations say that files older than 30 years from the founding of the republic should be part of the public record.

Guo Chongli, director of the ministry's archives department, said the files are mainly about diplomatic policies at bilateral and multilateral levels in the first half of the 1960s.

The Vietnam War was a very important world affair at that time, Guo said. Part of Russia's aid to Vietnam was delivered through China.

Other documents of special interest include those pertaining to the wars on the China-India border. There are files about Deng Xiaoping at a meeting in Moscow in 1963 and Zhou Enlai visiting Russian new leaders in 1964 after premier Nikita Khrushchev left his position.

In those five years, there were 26 ambassadorial level meetings between China and the US, including China protesting the US's U-2 plane invasion. This was also the period when China and France set up formal diplomatic ties.

The ministry's archive department was opened to the public, to both locals and foreigners in 2004. So far, 3,400 people have visited the archives, 20 percent of them Chinese. Anyone interested in reading these files can visit the ministry's archives department and register with an ID or passport.

Where: 2 Nan Dajie, Chaoyang
Tel: 6596 4294

Open: 8:30-11:30 am, 1-4 pm.
Closed on weekends

Cheaper airline tickets, manna from the financial crisis



Finnair promotes at Wangfujing Avenue.

CFP Photo

By Zheng Lu

More affordable airline tickets are available online: Beijing to Shanghai is 340 yuan, Beijing to Seoul is 750 yuan and a round ticket from Beijing to London is 3,300 yuan. This is in part a domino effect of the global credit crunch, and many airlines are following their foreign counterparts in lowering fares.

Another reason for the price drop is the lowering of foreign airlines' bunker surcharges. Singapore Airlines has reduced its bunker sur-

charge by US \$4, while Air France-KLM has cut its own by US \$10. The reduction of crude oil prices in the international market is also a factor.

According to ctrip.com, an online travel agent, airlines are continuing to drop their prices. The number of business travelers has decreased due to the financial crisis, so airlines have reduced their ticket prices and bunker surcharges, Zhang Wei, senior commissioner at the site, said.

Bunker charges for domestic airlines, however, remain

the same.

If passengers order tickets online, more discounts are available. This is because airlines sell at the lowest prices to travel agents instead of individual travelers, said an employee at yooe.com, another online travel agent. Some sites offer tickets to certain routes at an eye-popping discount of 80 to 90 percent. The cheapest air ticket sold on ctrip, for a flight from Beijing to Shenyang, costs 70 yuan, whereas a train ticket costs around 200 yuan.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weijing@ynet.com

Do you know where I can find public buses going to the Great Wall?

You can get there by bus No 919 from the Deshengmen bus stop between 6:30 and 8:30 am. You can also get a "tour" bus from Qianmen or the Beijing railway station, available from 6 to 10 am; or at the Summer Palace bus stop from 6:30 to 10 am.

Do you know second-hand car dealers? My girlfriend and I would like to get a car, but I want to visit a real shop rather than looking online, because I find Chinese Web sites difficult to navigate.

Here are some popular second-hand car shops in Beijing:

1. Asian Games Village Car Trading Market

Where: No 25 Anding Lu, Anwai Dajie, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6443 5320

2. Beifang Car Trading Market

Where: No 81 Fengguan Lu, Fengtai District
Tel: 6382 4466

3. Zhonglian Car Trading Market

Where: 1 Bagou, Haidian District
Tel: 8261 1129

4. Beijing International Car Trading Services Garden

Where: Gucheng Xi Lu, Shijingshan District
Tel: 8892 1513

My bosses from the US are visiting Beijing next month and I want them to have a great night on town. I'm looking for a place that has jazz music, but without the drunk, rowdy crowds.

CJW at The Place has bands from the US. They play from evening until early morning.

Where: L-137, 9 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6587 1222

You may also visit East Shore Jazz Cafe, opened by Liu Yuan, one of the best jazz players in town.

Where: 2/F, 2 Qianhai Nanyan Lu, Houhai, Xicheng District

Tel: 8401 2131

OT Lounge

Where: 6 Ritan Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6502 5722

My parents are visiting Beijing next week and because of work, I don't have time to take them around town. I want to book them on a tour that will expose them to Chinese culture, but one that has good English-speaking guides.

Try the Web site thehutong.com. It's run by two expats who have lived in China for years. They have a calendar of various cultural activities lined up, like dumpling-making, Chinese tea tasting and a Traditional Chinese Medicine diet therapy. Each class is about two hours long.

(By Wei Ying)

New collection, new en

'09 spring and summer collections from veteran de



Luo Zheng uses the cherry blossom to symbolize feminine beauty.

The beauty of blossoms

By Gan Tian

Luo Zheng held her fashion show in the D Park Workshop last Saturday for her brand OmniaLuo. The show brought a series of ready-to-wear bright ladies' outfits.

The audience was amazed by the clothes' typical Chinese elements. Embroidery, tie-dye and pearls were used extensively in the costume. Bright yellow, pink, silver, light purple were the main hue of the coats.

The show saw 30 looks from Luo's luxury line. Some accessories and patterns were taken from the country's ethnic minorities. However, far from looking dated and traditional, her lineup was modern and new. The show vividly portrayed the elegance, femininity and sophistication of the rapidly growing class of affluent female professionals.

The cherry blossom symbolizes feminine beauty, and the inspiration for this collection came from an ancient Chinese poem written by poet and scholar Cui Hu during the Tang Dynasty. The poem compares the beauty of a young woman with that of a cherry blossom to illustrate the scholar's unrequited love of nature and lady; a love that continues long after the lady is no longer present. In keeping with the metaphor, the momentary beauty of OmniaLuo's Spring 2009 Collection is long lasting.

"Some Tang-dynasty poems inspired me. Fashion is an art, and these beautiful things are connected," Luo, the designer and CEO of OmniaLuo, said.

Luo was the first female fashion designer from China to appear in New York Fashion Week this September. Bryant Park in New York welcomed the brand and its "Beauty Blossoms" theme on September 12. Luo said OmniaLuo plans to increase its retail presence to 250 stores and distributors by the end of the year.

By He Jianwei

If you have never been to a Chinese fashion show, the designs may seem ostentatious. This is true and untrue. Some younger designers care more about the gorgeous lights and sweet melodies than the garments. The veterans, however, pay attention to the delicacy of their works. For the 2009 China Fashion Week, these designers brought their new collections to highlight the energy of their work.

Capturing the little moments in cloth

By Wang Yu

An outsider to the fashion industry cannot imagine how a show looks aside from sitting beside the runway to gawk at "weird" designs. But those inductees to the world of women's fashion were given quite a show of fresh-faced models and brilliant music by designer Zou You on Monday night.

Zou You won the top prize at Brothers Cup International Youth Designers Competition in 2000 and established his own brand You'Z Clothing after six years of work in the industry. This time, Zou's theme was "just a little" which he explained to the audience as being drawn from the surprise moments in our daily lives.

"My works were built as a whole, but when you break them down, their key elements are scattered. But even scattered, their every detail remains alive," Zou said.

A crew of young, long-legged, sexy models showed up on the stage to show off the new designs. For fashion newcomers, the models may win more praise than the clothes. Zou continued the concept of comfort and naturalness which made his works simple and original.

"I see my clothes as part of the relationship between human beings. The models are kind of mobile constructions in my mind who become the media of communication," he said.

The whole stage is also simple but was seen as a linear and gleaming area under the lighting. The elegant clothes created an atmosphere of independence, confidence and practicability even when buried under colorful strips.

"Are the models important or are their faces? The models with whom I cooperate with are mostly new recruits but can still walk the stage in harmony with my works. I think that's the most important part of a show," he said.

"I'm looking for freedom of design, so new faces may bring new methods with them," He said.

At this year's fashion week in 798 Art District, the audience – especially aspiring students waiting outside the old workshop – do not need any celebrities, just a nice show to the tune of beating drum loops and distortion guitar.

"I chose the music myself. It is part of my inspiration alongside the books I frequently read. Experience determines the way I think, which in turn guides my design," he said.

"Besides what I like, I know nothing about next year's trends," he said.



Zou You draws inspiration from the surprise moments of daily life.

Beauty defined by butterflies and flowers

By He Jianwei

In the 11th century, the Song (960-1279) poet Ouyang Xun wrote the tune of Butterfly and Flowers to express women's sentiments.

This year, Taiwanese designer GIOIA PAN interpreted her understanding through the use of butterfly and flowers.

Pan distinguishes herself from other generation fashion designers as an expert in knitwear. Her unique technique have overturned stereotypical knitting while rekindling appreciation for medium for couture creativity.

Her label GIOIA PAN was inspired by using her Italian namesake taken from the phrase of gioia di vita, or joy of life.

Pan's inspiration for the new collection came from an ancient poem. "Flowers and butterflies are the most pleasant to the eyes of women. All my works use romantic and elegant ideas about nature."

Her final piece was a red dress with loose sleeves. "The model is like a butterfly when she stretches her wings on the stage when she stretches her arms."

Interweaving retro spirit from the 1980s and infusing chic contemporary elements, Pan transcends space and time to create elegance and metropolitan vogue. "People believe knitwear can keep you warm, but I tell them that knitwear can also be gorgeous and suitable as an evening dress," she said.

She merged the style of the qipao with the Western evening gown. "I added a fishtail to the hem of the skirt, so when the model is walking on the stage, she will look like a mermaid. It is a way to illustrate a woman's elegance," she said.

Since its introduction, her label has been accepted by the public and has become the preferred haute couture of numerous celebrities, including Miss World 2007 Zhang Zilin.

Unlike clothes mass produced by computerized automatic weavers, GIOIA PAN has "subtle customization" – the literal knitting one thread at a time by manual devices to optimize pendency and elasticity.

The GIOIA PAN Collections span a broad creative spectrum with avant-garde counterpoints which spontaneously evoke essential femininity in a unique fusion of the neoclassic and post-modernist to inspire fashion aware minds.

Aspiring to make it to the international arena, Pan explores opportunities for international exposure and is active in exhibitions, shows and sales in Paris, New York, Tokyo and Southeast Asia. She has been praised as Taiwan's "Queen of Knitting," and strives to bring her label GIOIA PAN to center stage.

energy

designers

Butterflies

ong Dynasty
wrote a poem to
wer to describe

ner Gioia Pan
of women's beauty
d bowknot designs.
om other new gen-
artist specializing
ques and aesthetics
mpressions of knit-
on of an old, exciting

ntroduced in 2001,
en from the philoso-

y series was from
butterflies can rep-
ually reflect my
ut women," she said.
ess with a pair of
a butterfly flying on
r arms," she said.
m the 1920s to
emporary ele-
d time through deli-



Gioia Pan illustrates beauty with butterflies and flowers.



Yangtze River flowing through clothes

By He Jianwei

The water of Yangtze River was shown both on a big screen and on the stage as five models wearing dark blue evening dress withdrew behind the curtain. The show was Mark Cheung's new show Tuesday night at D Park.

This year's topic was the Yangtze River. It was Cheung's ninth show to illustrate Chinese landscapes through fashion design.

The show was divided into three parts according to the three parts of the Yangtze River. The first part was the upper reaches of the river.

The Qinghai-Tibet Plateau is the origin of the river. Cheung used elements of traditional Tibetan clothing on his design. "I used a lot of ruffles and flounces on the garment. The flounce on the sleeves represents the white water of the Yangtze River. The fast-moving stream usually makes beautiful white water," he said.

The second part is about the middle reaches of the river. "I traveled to Wuhan, Hubei Province, which is a city with three towns. It retains old relics, such as the Yellow Crane Tower first built in 223 AD. I was fascinated by the charming scenery of its ancient towns," he said.

The designer used a cocktail skirt and flutter sleeves to represent the charm of the towns. He also used ruffles on the skirts to symbolize the calm and tranquil middle reaches of the river.

The last part is the lower reaches of the river. "The south of the lower reaches of the Yangtze River looks elegant and delicate. I used a lot of silver and embroidery on the clothing," he said.

All of Cheung's works are related to the mountains and waters in China. His inspiration is drawn from his many travels. Every year, he travels to many places and begins next year's designs upon his return.

"The Yangtze River is regarded as one of the roots of Chinese culture. I want to learn how this river influences our culture and our people's character," he said.

Chinese civilization was the dominant theme of one of his garments. In 2007, he focused on the Yellow River. Before that, his show was inspired by a visit to Tibet.

Unlike other designers, Cheung uses Chinese folk music in his shows. In this year's show, he used Tibetan music in the first part. The second part featured minority music from Guizhou Province. Traditional songs of southern China were used in the last part.

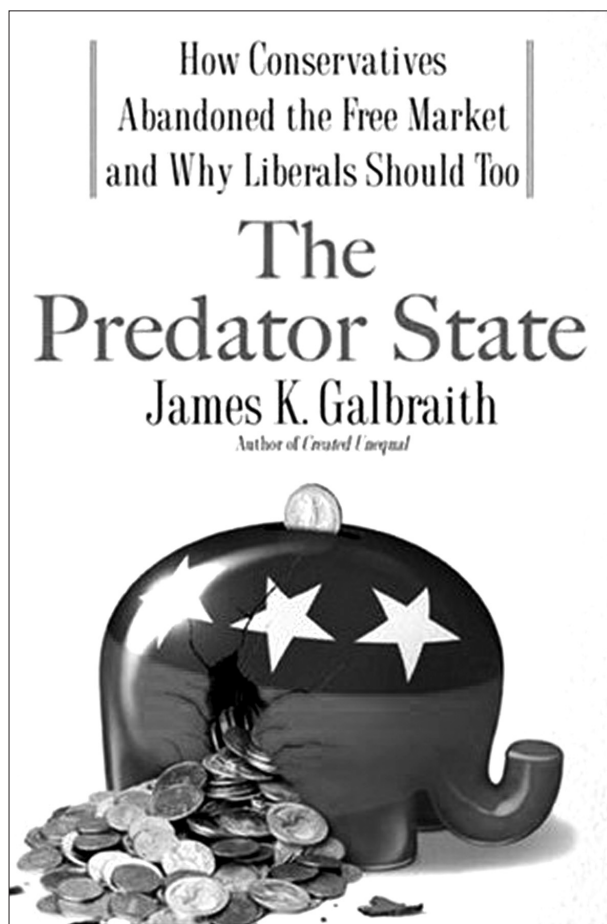


The Yangtze River was the theme of Mark Cheung's garments.
Photos by Stenny Zhang



NE • TIGER's line up at this fashion week.
Photo provided by NE • TIGER

End of the market that never was



By Charles Zhu

People today are fairly impressed by the foresight of George Soros in his book *The New Paradigms for the Financial Markets*, published by PublicAffairs. As early as last May he wrote, "We are in the midst of a financial crisis the likes of which we haven't seen since the Great Depression." Soros said that the financial system, as it currently operates, "is built on false premises. Unfortunately, we have an idea of market fundamentalism, which is now the dominant ideology, holding that markets are self-correcting."

All five big investment banks – Bear Stearns, Merrill Lynch, Lehman Brothers, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley – disappeared or morphed into regular banks. Stock market indexes fell. People are increasingly concerned with the financial market, and in this investment climate, a voice that echoes some of Soros's ideas is quite enlightening. That voice booms forth from *The Predator State: How Conservatives Abandoned the Free Market and Why Liberals Should Too* (221pp, Free Press, US \$25), written by James K. Galbraith, an economist at the University of Texas and son of economist John Kenneth

Galbraith, "the last American Institutionalism."

In *Predator State*, Galbraith criticizes everything many hold up as the virtues of private markets. He says the Reagan Revolution and all its ensuing years was a fraud. What remains of its swindle? The answer, he says, is nothing: no one save for the academics fall for it anymore.

Galbraith maintains that the Reagan Revolution was based on three presumptions: deregulation, monetarism and low taxes. He says that deregulation is an artifice so that lobbyists can extract "more money from those who can afford to pay – and sometimes from those who cannot."

Monetarism, in his idea, is a tool to counter labor unions and cope with Wall Street. The conservatives have blind faith in cutting taxes, thinking that it is the only way to save the market. The policy of low taxes did not achieve what it aimed to and failed to stimulate saving Americans. It was only a gift to the wealthiest 1 percent of the American population.

"It is fair to say that there will never again be any US government for which a truly principled conservative might work," he says.

Galbraith spares no efforts

challenging tired conventions. He says inflation rose in the 1970s because the Federal government printed too much money and he laments that big companies, big unions and OPEC have too much pricing power.

As a devoted Keynesian, he says he believes in deficit spending and scoffs at liberals for adopting the ideal of balanced budgets just when the conservatives abandoned it. Those who believe in balanced budgets are not only mimicking conservatives, he says, but are mimicking dead ones. He disagrees with the liberal approach to trade protection, which demands that developing economies agree to reforms in their home countries. It is virtually impossible to do so as "you cannot impose a wage standard on China or Vietnam," he says.

The author endorses such policies as price controls and state planning. "You want higher wages? Raise them. You want more and better jobs? Create them," he says.

In his opinion, the market as some exponents advocate does not exist. The market as they describe it, he argues, is but a vaporous idea, a cosmic and ethereal space, a negation and a non-state.

Doing it all for the music

By Gan Tian

The 28-year-old guitarist Xia Yan shares his life story of Beijing rock in the new novel *Jian-dan Weisui, Unrealized Simplicity* (262pp, Huawei Publishing House, 25 yuan) released in August.

The fictional story opens with the lead character Yan Xia's rock and roll dream. His band Wuwei was a local hit in the Beijing scene, but the relationship between its members left much to be desired. Its final concert was held in Harbin.

Yan was confused about his dreams and beliefs, and so turned to work as a singer in a pub. He carried on relationships with two girls at the same time, leaving him feeling guilty and even more confused. Looking for change, he settled on one of the girls and started a new band. His life went smoothly for a couple of months, but in the end, the new band split up, as did Yan and the girl.

The writer talks about "karma," but it is up to the reader to decide whether Yan's fate is due to cosmic forces or his own attitude.



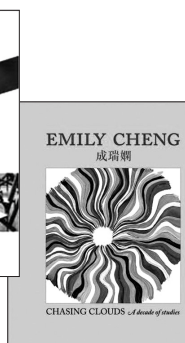
In real life, Xia lost his band and girlfriend and betrayed his dream, but as the author he tells readers to try: no matter what. Attitude and passion can make or break every outcome in life.

Xia wrote in the afterword that, at first, he only planned to write about being a guitarist in Beijing. Besides his job, there were his girlfriends, friends and dreams. However, the strength of the

novel only manifested when he showed how the main character's behavior only made his life worse.

The story paints a vivid picture of the capital's underground rock scene. Xia played guitar in many bands, and also performed in live shows with local stars. He started his own studio in 2006 to design and make demos. The novel is somewhat biographical. As a 28-year-old man, he remains passionate about his music dreams.

The novel was adapted in local Beijing language. A rumored 30 percent of the novel's dialogue was omitted due to an abundance of "dirty words."



Timezone 8 booklisting

Timezone 8 is a Hong Kong-based publisher, distributor and retailer of books on contemporary art, architecture, photography and design. This week, it lists its three top-selling design books for *Beijing Today* readers.

Emily Cheng: Chasing Clouds – A Decade of Studies

By Kevin Power and Johnson Chang, 384pp, Timezone 8, US \$75

Painter Emily Cheng has worked in the US and Asia for the last 30 years. This immense monograph focuses on 305 drawings she made in the last decade, and includes an index that traces her diverse sources: China's Zhou to Qing Dynasties; Renaissance, Baroque and Byzantine art and architecture; Korean, Japanese and Indian cultures; the study of drapery in the West and in Asia, largely through religious figures; and depictions of the arabesque in plants, flowers, trees, clouds and fire in Taoist and Buddhist imagery.

Caochangdi: Beijing Inside Out

By Robert Mangurian and Mary-Ann Ray, 389pp, Timezone 8, US \$39.95

As one of more than 300 urban villages in the city of Beijing, Caochangdi tells a story about itself and its mostly illegal residents, including farmers, floaters, taxi

drivers and world-class artists. Embedded within it are both the problems and the possibilities of a new urban space redefining the city of Beijing. At this point in history, cities make up half of the world's population. The authors, who live and work in Caochangdi, dissect the multiple phenomena that form this dynamic urban condition.

Ai Weiwei: Under Construction

By Charles Merewether, 160pp, University of New South Wales Press, US \$45

Developed over 11 chapters, Dr Merewether explores how, through his art, Ai Weiwei raises questions about cultural violence and history. His work is seen within the context of a country where future possibilities are shaped by opposing forces of ruin and production, patrimony and erasure – the logic of ruins in reverse. The book won top prize in the Book Design category at the Ninth Australian Graphic Design Association Biennial Awards in 2008.

(By He Jianwei)

Graffiti graces Beijing living rooms

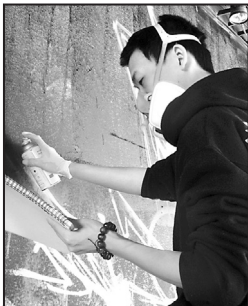
By Jin Zhu

Young people with backwards baseball caps, listening to deafening hip-hop in their skateboard shoes: this is the stereotype of the graffiti artist who makes the street his canvas.

But China has been quick to accept graffiti as an art culture, and graffiti designs – once the domain of dilapidated overpasses – are heading for homes all over the city as the new rage in interior design.



Landscape graffiti design



Eric Tin, the founder of Kwan-Yin Graffiti Studio



Kwan-Yin's indoor graffiti in an office

Photos provided by Kwan-Yin Graffiti Studio

About 10 years ago, when hip-hop first penetrated China's cities, graffiti came with it. Big cities like Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou were frequent targets of graffiti artists. At that time, graffiti was viewed the same as illegal advertisements.

Today, more people have come to accept graffiti as part of pop culture. It has found a place in indoor decorations, especially in the homes of younger people.

"My parents usually decorate their houses with pictures, flowers or other common things. I prefer drawing in my room, because it is unique and better represents myself," Fan Yiming, a graffiti lover, said.

Nowadays, many graffiti groups are providing their services as indoor decorators. Kwan-Yin Graffiti Studio is one such group.

Kwan-Yin Graffiti Studio was founded by Eric Tin and Dai Yan in June 2006. "Kwan-Yin (Bodhisattva) became female when Buddhism entered China during the Tang Dynasty. We named our group as Kwan-Yin to express our understanding of graffiti in China, which also must change to fit in with Chinese culture," Tin said.

"More and more young people have asked Kwan-Yin to decorate their houses with graffiti. Some of such young people even want to paint on their own with our help," he said.

In mainstream home decoration, graffiti is more exquisite and soft than its street counterpart. The styles include classical European style, traditional Chinese style and garden city style. The paintings feature green plants, flowers,

butterflies, landscapes and simple colored blocks.

"We must ensure the design is in harmony with the indoor surroundings, including color and decoration style," Tin said, "In indoor graffiti we have to pay attention to every detail, because indoor art is usually enjoyed close up."

Indoor graffiti is not just paint on the wall. There can be a green tendril on the ground or an old typewriter on a bookshelf. "Painting some stairs or windows can create an interesting scene in the home and also makes the room look more expansive," he said.

Besides home decoration, graffiti has also been used in public spaces to decorate an office or an exhibition.

"Graffiti is getting more and more popular. It is no longer underground. Even many brand enterprises use graffiti in their designs," Meng Liang, an art director in 798 Art District, said.

Many big enterprises such as Microsoft, Adidas and Nike Beijing employ graffiti artwork.

One of Kwan-Yin's most satisfying works was a 42-meter-by-3-meter painting presented at The Second China International Cultural and Creative Industry Expo last year. "It was a big project that combined both traditional Chinese handwriting and landscape painting with graffiti techniques," Tin said, "Our work could help the public learn that Chinese graffiti art is not simply a copy but a pursuit in Chinese painting."

Tips

The price of indoor graffiti varies with painting materials and designs. Generally speaking, the average price varies from 200 to 400 yuan per square meter.

As a professional graffiti artist, Tin also gave the following suggestions for aspiring do-it-yourself decorators.

First of all, it is important to choose the proper design before painting. Green plants are suitable for decorations in a romantic style, and designs with Chinese features are best when combined with traditional decorations.

Second, select a proper painting area. For a small house, it is not a good idea to use graffiti art over a large area. Intersperse the art spaces.

Third, select proper shapes and colors. Generally speaking, green, yellow and red are the main colors used by graffiti artists.

The last step is to paint. First, sketch a draft on the wall using pencil, then fill in the color starting from the lightest and working down to the darkest.

It is necessary to wear a gas mask when painting with colored lacquer to prevent the inhalation of tiny grains of paint.



Exclusively Taiwanese folk art

The Golden One

Jinyi Tang, which opened in March, was co-founded by a Taiwanese man named Wang Chengwei. Wang, 49, majored in architecture at Taiwan's Tunghai University and worked in design and real estate for more than 20 years. But this year, he decided to focus on promoting Taiwan's culture and art industry.

"I found that travel souvenirs in the domestic market were similar and of poor workmanship. I thought more creativity should be put into their design," Wang said. "Taiwan has a distinctive local culture and I hope its cultural elements can inject uniqueness into our products, in addition to informing people about the culture."

The shop is also the sole agent in town for Taiwanese products reflecting local culture, including puppets from Heluofang and accessories from Chengjia. Wang said he hopes to create more designs for his shop and develop Jinyi Tang's own brand in the near future.

Taiwanese puppets

Traditional Taiwanese puppet shows can be traced back to Fujian Province. The shows became an immediate success when introduced to Taiwan during the Kangxi and Xianfeng years of the Qing Dynasty. Since it is a hand puppet show, it is also called "palm show." Traditional characters in Taiwan puppetry come from history and legend, including leading roles in *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* and *Journey to the West*.

Wang refuses to sell modern-day puppets in his shop. While they do introduce new stories and are popular among young people, they do not reflect traditional culture, he said.

Parents buy Jinyi Tang's puppets for their kids to help develop the children's hand-eye coordination and fuel their imagination. Wang said he is happy to give an impromptu puppet show to customers.



Wang presents a puppet show to customers.



Taiwanese puppet, 100 yuan each



Jinyi Tang features Taiwanese folk art.



Eight-Trigrams Lion with Sword, a paper figure

By Zhang Dongya

People who stroll down Yandai Xiejie may come across a blue-eyed cockatoo called Dabao, who will do tricks in exchange for money. The bird belongs to Jinyi Tang, or Golden One, a small shop that resembles a Taiwanese cultural exhibition. Featuring Taiwanese folk art like puppets and paper statues, the shop is dedicated to promoting the island's creative culture industry and spreading its traditional culture.

Paper statues

This collection of handicrafts is made up of exquisite paper figures which represent Taiwanese aboriginal and Mazu culture, such as the God of Wealth and the Door Gods.

The paper statues, which are do-it-yourself kits, are transformed into different figures without the need for scissors or glue. Along with paper postcards, these statues can be given as gifts to family and friends to express good wishes.

Echo magazine

Founded in 1971 by Huang Yongsong, Taiwan's *Echo* magazine is concerned with collecting, saving and protecting traditional Chinese culture. It was named by *Time* magazine in 2006 as the "Best Esoteric Publication" in its Best of Asia issue, and has gained the title of "gene bank of Chinese traditional culture."

One issue of *Echo* focused on batik, documenting the process the fabric was produced by various ethnic minorities in Guizhou Province. It offered valuable information on folk batik craft in China.

Thus far, the magazine has published more than 140 issues covering folk culture, folk life, folk belief, folk literature and folk art. The publication is not sold in local bookstores and is only available at stores like Jinyi Tang.



Paper statue of a Mazu god



The Echo magazine series



"Taiwan floral cloth" notebook, 10 yuan each

Self-designed notebooks

Wang's experience as a designer has clearly affected the choice of products in his shop. One of Jinyi Tang's representative products is the "Taiwan floral cloth" notebook and the "white-and-blue porcelain" notebook.

Since the 1960s, the "Taiwan floral cloth," which features bright red peonies in full bloom, has embodied both refined and popular taste on the island.

"The most important thing in design is proportion. It is the golden rule in architectural design, and is also true for the design of other products," Wang said, citing the "white-and-blue porcelain" notebook as a good example.

The notebook is bound with a string in the style of ancient Chinese books. On the upper right-hand corner, a four-centimeter reproduction of a white-and-blue porcelain made during the reign of Emperor Kangxi is embedded in the notebook.

Jinyi Tang

Where: 35 Yandai Xiejie, Xicheng District
Open: 10 am - 10 pm
Tel: 6407 8285

Photos by Jason Wang

Club seafood

Two nights in Beijing

Mattagne, who has 45 years' culinary experience under his belt, created two set menus for LAN Club customers during his visit to Beijing (October 24 to 26) and Shanghai (October 30 to November 1). To guarantee an unforgettable dining experience, the restaurant adhered to a strict guest list when the chef was in town. LAN Club now shares these special menus with other guests, along with Mattagne's other creations.



Caviar dessert

Two menus

Mattagne, who hails from Belgium, has gained international recognition for his unique preparation of seafood. It is no surprise, then, that the first menu celebrates the wonders of seafood.

The five-course menu, priced at 1,388 yuan, starts with roasted langoustines with artichoke and Parmesan Caviar, Nantua Sauce and Lemon Leaves Foam. The restaurant specially imported Atlantic shrimp for this dish.

For their main dish, diners get Boston Lobster and Black Truffles with Coral and Coconut Milk. The flavor bursts with a hint of sweetness that brings out the lobster's freshness.

The second menu, priced at 1,888 yuan, is made up of seven courses. It starts with scallops and Dauricus Shrenki Caviar with Quail eggs, Leek Foam and warm sour cream.

The fourth course on this menu, pigeon and foie gras with Ceps Foam, hazelnuts, chicory and wild mushrooms brings together Chinese and Western ingredients for a winning combination.

By Gan Tian

LAN Club, the impeccably designed fusion restaurant that draws Beijing's starlets and high-fliers, celebrated its second birthday last month by bringing Chef Yves Mattagne to Beijing and Shanghai. *Beijing Today* finds out what the Michelin star chef whipped up for guests.

Shrimps with bread



Yves Mattagne in China

Mattagne, a two-star Michelin chef, was elected Master Cuisinier of Belgium in 1991 and won the gold medal at the Concourse European Fish Chef competition in 1992. From 1993 to 1999, he was awarded the Chef d'Or Gault Millau and L'Oscar Cuisinier by Le Club des Gastronomes de Belgique. In 2003, he received the award for Chef of the Year – Gault Millau and the Best Hotel Restaurant Chef by MKG Awards in Paris.

In 2006, he was awarded the Medaille d'Or and an Honorable Diploma from the Acedemie Culinaire de France, and in 2007, the Guide Delta Delta d'Or. At the same time, Mattagne launched his own line of food products and established Atelier Yves Mattagne Studio.

Mattagne is now set to make waves in the local dining industry. The LAN Club in Shanghai has invited him to work with a team of elite Chinese chefs to present a gourmet experience that weaves together Chinese and Western dining specialties.



Norway shrimps with crispy biscuit

Photos provided by LAN Club



Crumpler

Crumpler is proud to announce the opening of its 10th China store at The Village at Sanlitun. SLG46 of Orange Hall
Tel: 010 - 64160527

Friday,
November 14

5

Exhibition**Embedded Memories – Kim Seeseon Solo Exhibition**

Kim Seeseon provides people burnt out by daily living an opportunity to reminisce on the joys of life. By drawing on personal experiences, she weaves together a collective memory of mankind.

Where: Han Ji Yun Contemporary Space, A1 Beigao, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 23, daily 11 am – 7 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6434 0266

Common Factor – Li Bo Solo Exhibition

Where: China Visual Arts Center, Zone D, 1 Art Area, Hegezhuang, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang District

When: Until February 22, daily except Monday 9:30 am – 5:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 6755

Movie**Las Hurdes**

The Spanish region of Las Hurdes, not far from Salamanca, is largely cut off from the rest of the world. The movie, directed by Luis Buouel, takes watchers on an exploration of the primitive area.

Where: Instituto Cervantes in Beijing, A1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5879 9666

Sabrina

Where: Club Obiwan, 4 Xihai Xiyan, Xicheng District

When: 8 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6617 3231

Nightlife**DJ Abdel**

DJ Abdel, from France, throws a unique mix of hip-hop, funk and R&B, as well as some Arabic influences into his DJ sets.

Where: Bling, 5-1 Solana, 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 10 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5905 6999



Common Factor – Li Bo Solo Exhibition

Influencing society with design

By He Jianwei

Dutch designers, always the international trend-setters, continue to cultivate the field with new innovations. *Social Energy: Contemporary Communication Design from the Netherlands* showcases works from 11 important design groups in the Netherlands, such as Irma Boom, Karel Martens, Lust, Mooren & van der Velden and Sudio Dumbbar, all of which are pioneers in various communication design fields.

The exhibition features 300 projects including books, installations, maps, architectural graphics, signage, games, video and animation. The works, which are based on traditional graphic

design, integrate subjects like music, writing, sociology, media linguistics, information science, popular culture and product development, demonstrating the great transition from graphic design to communication design.

Design works exhibitions usually only show end products without the context like ecology or the social background dominating the production process of the works. *Social Energy*, however, “is trying to restore the context for each work with a new model serving as a live “library” with the adoption of text, documentary, sketch, sample manuscripts and other literary material, so the “real” design – the environment of

creation can be experienced by the audience,” Li Degeng, one of the curators, said.

Dutch designers regard their work as a part of social production. “With a combination of teamwork, deeply entrepreneurial savvy and sincerity to both the rationality and tangibility of the projects, these designers bring the energy of design to the manufacturing world and ultimately integrate them into society,” Li said.

Where: 3 Building of Today Art Museum, 32 Baiziwan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 21, daily 9 am – 5 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5876 9690



Flowers – Ink Brush Painting Photography

6 Saturday,
November 15**Exhibition****Li Jianping Solo Exhibition**

Where: Expol-Sources Art Space, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until December 30, daily except Monday 10:30 am – 6:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6431 4793

My Landscape – Tao Wenjie Solo Exhibition

Where: Cai Zhibang International Art Space, 2/F, Building D, Cornerstone International, 48 Wangjing Xi Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until November 22, daily 10 am – 11 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 6478 7088

Flowers – Ink Brush Painting Photography

Catherine S J Zhang will showcase 40 of her works in this solo exhibition. The

mixed media artworks, which were produced in the US, will be shown to the public for the first time. With “Flowers” and “Life” as main themes, her art explores their beauty and relationship.

Where: Guanyintang Exhibition Hall at the Beijing Wan Fung Art Gallery, 32 Guanyintang, Wangsiying 2A, Chaoyang District

When: Until September 1, daily 9 am – 5 pm (Monday-Friday), 10 am – 5 pm (Saturday-Sunday)
Admission: Free
Tel: 6523 3320, 6738 9901

7 Sunday, November 16

Exhibition**Hibernation – Jia Aili Solo Exhibition**

The exhibit will witness the birth of Jia's artwork entitled, “We are from the Century.” Jia will create this artwork during the exhibition itself, working night after night all winter long and writing down on a journal his thoughts on the creation process. The exhibit is the first of its kind in the gallery.

Where: DoART Gallery, 261 Caochangdi, Changyang District
When: Until March 30, daily except Monday 10 am – 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 8457 4550, 8477 5158

Gu Xiong and Yang Shu Joint Exhibition

Where: Beijing Center for the Arts at the Legation Quarter, 23 Qianmen Dong Dajie, Chongwen District
When: Until December 8, daily 10 am – 10 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 6559 8008

Movie**Crime and Punishment**

The movie, directed by

Zhao Liang, received the Golden Montgolfiere Award at the 2007 Festival Des Three Continents.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, Yugong Yishan, 3 Zhangzi Zhong Lu, Xicheng District

When: 8 pm
Admission: 20-40 yuan
Tel: 6404 2711

Night life**Fiesta Latina**

A night filled with music, drink and dance is on every Sunday at Vics.

Where: Vics (inside the north gate of the Workers Stadium), Chaoyang District

When: 9 pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 5293 0333

Stage in December

Concert**Wu Muye Piano Recital**

Who: Wu Muye
Where: Forbidden City Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng District

When: December 13, 7:30 pm
Admission: 30-380 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Music from Oscar-winning Films

Who: China Film Symphony Orchestra

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng District

When: December 13, 7:30 pm
Admission: 20-150 yuan
Tel: 6605 7006

Batko Delorko Piano Concert

Who: Batko Delorko

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng District

When: December 14, 7:30 pm
Admission: 20-150 yuan
Tel: 6605 7006

Elaine Paige's Music

Who: Elaine Paige

Where: Great Hall of the People (west side of Tiananmen Square), Xicheng District

When: December 14, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-1,500 yuan
Tel: 5165 6039

Music by the Shanxi Provincial Orchestra

Who: Shanxi Provincial Orchestra

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall (west side of the Great Hall of the People), Xicheng District

When: December 3-4, 7:30 pm
Admission: 50-380 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Flamenco Dance Sevilla

Who: Maria Pages Dance Company

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall (west side of the Great Hall of the People), Xicheng District

When: December 5-6, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-680 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Anne Sofie Von Otter Concert

Who: Anne Sofie Von Otter

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall (west side of the Great Hall of the People), Xicheng District

When: December 10, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-580 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Dance**Burning Steps**

Who: Song and Dance Troupe of the People's Liberation Army's General Political Department

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall (west side of the Great Hall of the People), Xicheng District
When: December 1-2, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-680 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Stars

Who: Guangzhou Song and Dance Company

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall (west side of the Great Hall of the People), Xicheng District

When: December 9, 7:30 pm
Admission: 50-400 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Drama**The Canterville Ghost**

Who: TNT Theater Britain

Where: Mei Lanfang Grand Theater, 48 Hepingli Dajie, Xicheng District
When: December 12-14, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-680 yuan
Tel: 5833 1218

(By Li Jing)

Things to know when 'googling' a cure

By Charles Zhu

My friend Charlotte was shocked to learn one day that she had diabetes. Her first response was to go online to research the disease.

Turning to the Internet was hardly a surprise, since many rely on it for better or more detailed advice. According to the Pew Internet and American Life Project, 11 percent of Internet surfers are searching for health-related information. About 75 percent of patients with a chronic medical problem said information they read on the Internet affected their decision about how to treat a disease or a condition.

Many start their search with a straightforward search for information, checking articles about similar conditions at sites that provide frank medical suggestions. Then they turn to online communities of people with the same disease.

Trust in the Internet runs so deep that people regard Google results as the de facto second opinion for detailed information after a medical visit.

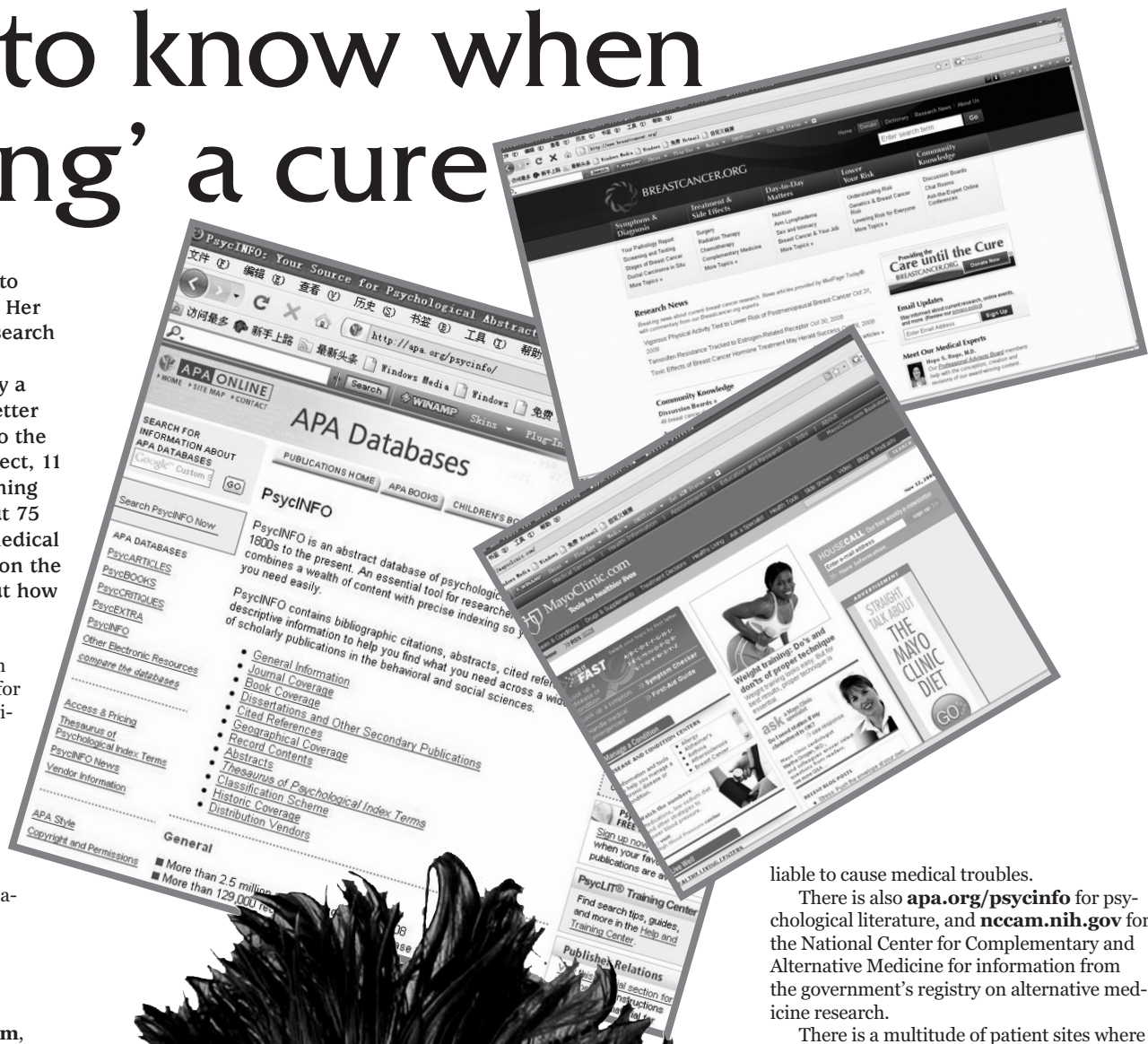
But in addition to Wikipedia and Dr. Google, there are many sites that provide medical consultancy.

For general medical interest sites, there are **WebMD.com**, **health.discovery.com**, **The New York Times' nytimes.com/health** and **mayoclinic.com**. WebMD offers health resources for consumers, physicians, nurses and educators. It includes news, forums, health quizzes and consumer product updates. Other features include a symptom checker, men's, women's and children's health homes, and advice on pregnancy, drugs, sex and relationships.

Discovery Health is another Web site where professionals teach visitors how to keep both wealth and health. Its Austin network provides medical answers. On its medical tip page, visitors can learn how to soothe eczema, what to remember when their child is taking medicine and health concerns related to pregnancy after age 35. The Web site, among other things, teaches patients with eczema how to cope with itchy, scaly and red skin.

The New York Times (nytimes.com/health) has the latest news and scientific perspectives on common diseases and conditions, news stories about medical and pharmaceutical developments and reports on the latest breakthroughs. It offers clues to why some people are more prone to get injuries and the cause of asthma. In one of its current medical stories, the site discusses why more people are cheating on their spouses, and that younger women seem to be catching up with men in the adultery department.

For medical science sites, there is **ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed**, the site of the National Library of Medicine. PubMed is a service of the US National Library of Medicine that includes 18 million citations from MEDLINE and other life science journals for biomedical articles back to the 1950s. It includes links to full text articles and other related resources with knowledge about disease, relevant news and the lifestyles that are



liable to cause medical troubles.

There is also **apa.org/psychinfo** for psychological literature, and **nccam.nih.gov** for the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine for information from the government's registry on alternative medicine research.

There is a multitude of patient sites where people with similar diseases can exchange ideas and compare notes for medical treatment. They can also be where medical researchers find a case for study. For the latter, there are the sites of the Association of Cancer Online Resources (**acor.org**), e-patients (**epatients.net**), Patients Like Me and Trusera (**trusera.com**). **epatient.net** has tips on how to shed fat and alerts on the latest diet pill scams. These Web sites provide a community-like association for patients to exchange ideas, stories and clinical details. CancerQuest, run by the Association of Cancer Online Resources, is designed to empower cancer patients, cancer survivors, students, health care workers and others with a better understanding of the disease process and the latest approaches to cancer detection, diagnosis and treatment.

There are many sites which focus on a major common disease such as heart disease, cancer, hepatitis or diabetes. The American Heart Association runs **americanheart.org**, the American Cancer Society runs **cancer.org** and **diabetes.org** is operated by the American Diabetes Association. The list continues with **breastcancer.org**, **diabetesmine.com**, and **sugarstats.com**.

Medical researchers say that when people are using the Internet to get a "second opinion," they must be wary about the accuracy of all information. Generally speaking, online information can be trusted, they say. In a study done earlier this year, researchers working for the journal *Cancer* found that among 343 web pages about breast cancer, 18 contained inaccurate statements: an error rate of 5.2 percent.

CFP Photo

Getting familiar with the Forbidden

The Forbidden City, imperial palace during the Ming (1368-1944) and Qing (1636-1912) dynasties, is the symbol of Beijing. It is the biggest and best preserved collection of ancient architecture in China. But the Forbidden City as we know it does not give a complete picture of the palace. More than half the imperial palace remains guarded.

The Forbidden City covers 720,000 square meters, 55 percent of which is off limits to the public. Architecture in the Forbidden City is luxurious and grand, but parts are ruined and deserted.

The palace's renovation remains a challenge. It is difficult to find proper materials for replacement parts, and many of the traditional skills required for repair have been lost. During the 1950s and 1970s, the Forbidden City underwent two renovations. In 2002, the third phase began: it will be completed in 2020.

Many hope the renovations will unlock new areas of the city and unveil more of its mysteries to the public. For now, palace-goers will have to settle for a tour of its many districts.



An overview of the Forbidden City from Jingshan Park.



A glance at Chonghua Palace

Chonghua Palace The Palace of Double Glory

Chonghua Palace is located in the northwest of the Forbidden City, along the western route of the inner court. It was built in 1727 by Emperor Yongzheng (1723-1736) for his heir-designate, Emperor Qianlong (1736-1796).

The palace is a three-courtyard structure. Chongjing Dian is the main hall of the first courtyard. Chonghua Palace is the name of the main hall of the middle courtyard.

The heir-designate palace should be Yuqing Palace, located at the eastern of the Forbidden City. But during Yongzheng's reign, the status of Yuqing Palace changed. Yongzheng secretly established Hongli, the real name of Emperor Qianlong, as his heir-designate. Qianlong lived in Yuqing Palace together with his brothers. Several years later, when he strengthened his position in the imperial family, he moved from Yuqing Palace to Chonghua Palace.

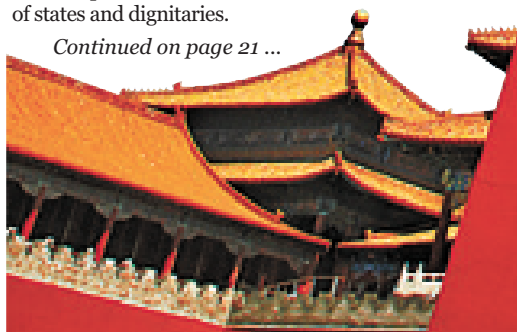
Emperor Qianlong explained why he moved to Chonghua Palace in a later poem. His father, Emperor Yongzheng, thought of Yuqing Palace as an unfortunate place, and moving out helped protect the young Qianlong from officials and other princes.

Even after Qianlong took the throne and moved out of Chonghua Palace, he continued to meet his friends and ministers there. Every New Year's day, the emperor would host a tea banquet for the ministers and write poetry in Chonghua Palace. The furniture and buildings there remain the same as when Qianlong last occupied it.

The Shu Fang Zhai close to the Chonghua Palace was modeled on a former prince's residence and characterized by two stages. The larger one is located in the courtyard and is the largest one-story stage in the Imperial Palace. The small one is west of the rear hall of the building and was used for opera performances during the imperial family banquets.

All furniture inside is original relics from the Qing Dynasty. Shu Fang Zhai was also used as the study by the most famous Emperors of the Qing Dynasty. Around New Year's Day, the emperor would accept congratulations from his officials and invite them to the large stage to watch an opera. After 1925, when the Forbidden City Museum was established, Shu Fang Zhai became the VIP reception chamber for heads of states and dignitaries.

Continued on page 21 ...



History and mysteries are hidden within the high red wall of the Forbidden City.

CFP Photos

... continued from page 20

Wenhua Hall

Wenhua Hall was built in early Ming Dynasty. It is located in the east of the Forbidden City, just east of Wuying Hall. The hall used to be the place where the emperor's designated heir would listen to and discuss political issues with officials. In Chinese Wuxing Theory (Theory of the Five Elements), the east direction belongs to Mu (wood). Mu's associated color is green and signifies growth, so the roof of the Hall was covered in green glaze.

When the Hall was built in Ming, it was the entertainment venue for the emperors. Before a designated heir came to the throne, they learned to deal with political affairs first at Wenhua Hall. Then in 1536, during the Jiaqing Period, it was changed into an entertainment location for emperors. The glazed tiles on the roof were changed to yellow glaze. By later Ming, when Li Zicheng, a rebellion leader, attacked and entered the Forbidden City in 1644, Wenhua Hall was destroyed. In 1683, during Kangxi's reign, the hall was rebuilt.

In the Ming and Qing dynasties, special meetings were held in Wenhua Hall every spring and autumn. Scholars and officials were invited to lecture about scripture, on which the emperor would compose a thesis. In the Ming Dynasty, the Wenhua Scholar was assigned to aid the designated heir in study. In the Qing Dynasty, the scholar was reassigned to assist the emperor in political affairs.

Jianfu Palace Garden

Jianfu Palace is located west of the western route through the inner court of the Forbidden City. The palace is a long and narrow courtyard. Its interior decoration is colorful and exquisite – the finest in the whole Forbidden City.

Emperor Qianlong loved the palace and often came to rest and compose poems. The emperor kept all his favorite treasures in the garden. The spirit tablets of the Empress Xiaodexian (1831-1850) and Empress Xiaozhenxian (1837-1881) were set here.

The palace is well-preserved now.

However, its western park, Jianfu Palace Garden, was damaged in a fire in 1923. The whole garden and its treasures suffered. The cause of the fire remains unknown. Emperor Xuantong, better known by his given name Puyi, lived in the Forbidden City at that time and suspected the eunuchs had stolen the treasures and set the fire.

Jianfu Palace Garden was built in 1740. The large garden is centered in Yanchunge Pavilion. Its main courtyard consists of Jingyixuan and Huiyilou. Yanchunge Pavilion was the main building in the garden's west. Huiyilou, built in 1757, was the last new garden constructed in the palace. It was once a building used for Buddhist worship, and visitors can still see the remains of a Buddha statue.

Renovations began in May 2000 and ended in 2005. The new Jianfu Palace Garden greets foreign officials, scholars, press conferences and hosts exhibitions.

Cining Palace Garden

Cining Palace Garden, built in the Ming Dynasty, is in the western part of the Forbidden City, southwest of Cining Palace. It was where empresses visited and rested in the Ming and Qing dynasties. The massive garden has only 11 buildings, which cover less than 20 percent of its area.

All the buildings were built at the north of the garden. The southern part was flat with plants, trees, stones and pools.

Linixiting Pavilion was built on a bridge crossing a pool. The west and east sides were positioned against the pool, and the north and south sides were connected with land. The pavilion was decorated with yellow and green glaze. Hanqingzhai and Yanshoutang Halls used to be the place where Emperor Qianlong served medicine to his mother.

All structures in the garden were built to adhere to the restrictions of ritual, patriarchal clans and geomantic omens. Although the buildings look boring, the plants, pools and stones in the garden enliven the atmosphere. The main trees in the garden are pine trees. The others are ginkgoes, phoenix trees and cloves. Peonies and Chinese herbaceous peonies are the main flowers. Cining Palace Garden was the place for the emperors' wives to relax and rest in the guarded Forbidden City.

(By Jackie Zhang)



A pool in the Cining Palace Garden.



The Linixiting pavilion



The sign may keep visitors out, but it also adds mystery to the old Palace.

CFP Photos

K.I.S.S.

By Eugene Rosenberg

In business writing, simplicity is prized above all else. If there is one overriding principle that defines effective written business communication, it can be summarized with the acronym KISS.

This stands for "Keep It Short and Simple," though in rougher language it has been phrased, "Keep It Simple, Stupid!" Expressing complicated thoughts in the simplest terms possible is crucial for everyone in an organization and can often be what makes a project run smoothly or breaks down communication. In this era of globalization, the need for simplicity grows still greater. When information flows from programmers in Beijing to testers in Seattle to service representatives in Bangalore, it must be clear, concise and solution-oriented. This keeps everyone on the same page and progress on track.

A long time ago, I learned the necessity of KISS the hard way. For those unfamiliar with this expression, learning something "the hard way" means to understand something through painful experience. My university experience provided me with many valuable lessons in writing effectively, most of which I learned "the easy way." When I graduated with degrees in literature and creative writing, KISS was not among the lessons I learned. In fact, voluminous (long) and linguistically complex (dif-

“
Though it pained me to scrap my precious writing, I resolved to edit my four pages into four sentences. Immediately after doing so, I received interest in my job application and was invited to numerous interviews.”

ficult) writing was encouraged in my courses, as academics believe it displays talent and virtuosity. So a hard lesson lay in store for me when I applied for my first job.

At that time, my CV was rather sparse. I had worked at Columbia University's library and had taught recitation classes as a professor's assistant, but other than that, I had little professional experience. Realizing that my resume barely covered half a page, I resolved to overcome this deficiency by prefacing it with the most brilliant cover



Eugene Rosenberg is a seminar trainer and copy editor for ClarkMorgan

letter I could possibly compose. With my freshly awarded degree in creative writing boosting my "author's ego," I spent an entire day writing a letter of introduction I presumed would impress

all who read it enough to forgive my lack of work experience. As I composed the letter, I decided to describe the full breath of my ability and potential. By day's end, I had four pages of shining prose illustrating all that I could bring to a potential employer. I felt very self-satisfied and began faxing my 1,500-word cover letter.

Needless to say, a four-page letter coupled with a half-page CV met with little success. Of the 20 places I sent it to, I heard back from none. While I foolishly assumed my document displayed what an excellent writer I was, in reality, it revealed what a poor communicator all my education had made me. It told all who read it that I could not express myself efficiently and that I did not value the time of busy human resource professionals. It would take a month of disappointment before I learned "the hard way" and realized my cover letter would be more successful if kept short and simple.

Though it pained me to scrap my precious writing, I resolved to edit my four pages into four sentences. Immediately after doing so, I received interest in my job application and was invited to numerous interviews. This proved to me forever that the shortest and simplest expression is always best. It guarantees the best results every time and can now be learned "the easy way."



ClarkMorgan Corporate Training

Beijing Guangzhou Hong Kong Nanjing Shanghai Shenzhen Suzhou Tianjin
www.clarkmorgan.com admin@clarkmorgan.com Free call: 800 820 5501



Dining



Salmon Extravaganza

A feast for seafood enthusiasts has come to town. Guest Chef Halvor Hedenstad, from Norway, brings 20 years' culinary experience and his passion for seafood to the Shangri-La Hotel Beijing. Delights from the ocean will be skillfully prepared in the open kitchen, of which the main attraction is salmon.

Where: Cafe Cha, Shangri-La Hotel Beijing, 29 Zizhuyuan Lu, Haidian District
When: November 9-21
Tel: 8882 6715

Pizza Fusion

Pizza Fusion brings traditional Chinese dishes to pizza. Among the choices are Kung Pao Chicken and Braised Pork with Preserved Vegetables. Adventurous eaters can ask for pumpkin, sweet potato or yam instead of the regular pizza dough.

Where: Traders Cafe, Traders Hotel Beijing, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District
When: November 1-30
Tel: 6505 1841



Business lunch

CBD Restaurant offers business lunch with a three-course set menu and coffee and tea. This is especially for diners who like to enjoy international cuisines in a relaxed atmosphere.

Where: CBD Restaurant, Grand Millennium Beijing, Fortune Plaza, 7 Dong Sanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District
When: November 1-30 except Saturdays and Sundays
Cost: 98 yuan
Tel: 6530 9383

Spanish cuisine and dance

Coffee Garden indulges Spanish food lovers with a dinner buffet presenting highlights from Malaga, Basque, Burgos and beyond prepared by guest chef Joaquin Campos. Diners will be entertained by the Flamenco and Paso Doble dances, two of Spain's renowned cultural

performances.

Where: Coffee Garden, Kerry Center Hotel, 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District

When: November 20-26, daily from 6:30 pm

Tel: 6561 8833 ext 40

Austrian buffet

Experience the taste of traditional Austrian cuisine at Kempinski Hotel's lunch and dinner buffet. Its offerings

include favorites Schmankerl like Wiener Schnitzel, Backhendl, Tafelspitz, Apple Strudel and Sacher Cake.

Where: Kranzler Restaurant & Bar, Kempinski Hotel Beijing Lufthansa Center, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: November 13-23, 6 am - 12 midnight
Tel: 6465 3388 ext 4105

Hotel

Best Brews

Four Points by Sheraton makes choosing the perfect brew a breeze. Chief Beer Officer (CBO) Scott Kerkmans announced the launch of its "Best Brews" program, in which the hotel presents a selection of at least four draught beers and up to 20 bottled beers, each chosen for its flavor, popularity and ingredients. All selections are broken down by style, character and body, so guests can easily identify the perfect match for them.

Where: Four Points by Sheraton Beijing, 25 Yuanda Lu, Haidian District
Tel: 8889 8888

Aviation

BA launches mobile phone check-in

British Airways has launched remote check-in via mobile phones with wireless connectivity. The service is free and available in 11 languages - without a need to download any software.

Visit ba.com/mobile using any mobile device with wireless connectivity. Customers can access the BA timetable in real time, as well as select seats and check-in individuals, groups and families.

Singapore Airlines updates route network

Singapore Airlines has updated its route for winter to better match capacity with demand. Service to Amritsar will be withdrawn from Febru-



ary 4, 2009. Flights to Penang, Ho Chi Minh, Bangalore and Chennai and service to and from Seoul will be gradually reduced. Services to the Middle East and the frequency of flights to Istanbul via Dubai will be increased. The airline will commence operations to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on December 14 and will link its Cape Town flights to Johannesburg from February 2009.

(By Sun Feng)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.

“Bravo” the Beijing way



CFP Photo

By Shida Zhu

Once, I went with an American friend to watch a table tennis championship between China and Japan. It was the deciding game of the men's team series and the score was tied at 2 before the Chinese player took the court.

After a flurry of exchanges of quick shots and smashes, the Chinese player trailed 17:20 in the decisive set. Despite being in this nerve-racking situation, he stood his ground, deftly hitting lobs and smashing the opponent's returns to win the gold.

The whole stadium roared in exhilaration at the victory. A group of young spectators beside my friend and I shouted, “gai le mao le.” My friend looked at me in bewilderment and asked, “What does gai le mao le mean?” I told him it is a Beijing slang and if interpreted literally, means, “to cover it with a cap.”

“Has that anything to do with a victory?” he enquired in greater puzzlement.

“It means bravo, perfect, or great, as you say in English,” I said.

Later, whenever he wished to show off his linguistic skill to express his

appreciation of something, my friend would use this expression. He appeared impressive, in the eyes of the Chinese, as well as foreigners, for his familiarity with the local dialect.

It is very hard to trace the origin of this expression. There is one explanation that says it has its roots in basketball. Whenever a player would shoot a basket outside the three-point area or score with a jump shot, Beijing folks would shout, “gai le mao le.” Later, the expression spread to other aspects of life to say “well done” or “bravo.”



办公室

The thing tube office

The thing tube office

By Tiffany Tan

Some things in life are truly amazing. You probably will not find many words as commonly used as “office,” yet it has somehow come to life as “the thing tube office.”

Even Chinese speakers are hard pressed to explain how “the thing tube” came to be part of the sign, because the Chinese characters clearly say, “office.” Office, period. No matter how hard you stare at it, there is no clue to the mystery.

The illustration above the sign does not provide any help either. I guess it is time to pass on the photograph to professional decoders or to look for the writer and make him or her confess.

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. The dish fries the glutinous rice dumplings to give a crispy texture.

The writer is obviously thinking in Chinese. How can a dish fry anything? It is the job of the chefs. This is the problem with the first part of the sentence. The problem with the second part is a grammatical one. “To give” is a transitive verb, ordinarily taking a direct and an indirect object, namely, “to give it a crispy texture,” or “to be given a crispy texture.” This involves idiomatic thinking, which is very difficult for English language beginners. In this case, the glutinous rice dumplings are fried to be given a crispy texture, or, the chefs fry the glutinous rice dumplings to give them a crispy texture.

2. Long-time delay

This is typical Chinglish. The word “long,” an adjective, sufficiently measures the time delay. It is not necessary, and is completely redundant to say, “long-time.” It is like drawing feet on a snake as the Chinese saying goes.

3. They traveled Wangfujing.

The writer is confused with the usage of the verb “to travel.” It is an intransitive verb, meaning “to pass or make a journey from one place to another.”

For instance, He travels all over the world. It cannot take a direct object. To express this idea, you will either say: They made a trip to Wangfujing, or, They made a tour of Wangfujing. You may also say: They traveled to Wangfujing.

Native Speaker: Penny Turner

1. The dish fries the glutinous rice dumplings to give a crispy texture.

Sentences following this model are common in Chinese menus, and thus, is probably one of the most important lessons to Chinese speakers learning English. The statement talks about a “dish” frying something – an impossibility – when it is trying to describe the dish: one made of “fried glutinous rice dumplings.” But they are not just any fried glutinous rice dumplings; they are ones with a “crispy texture.” To embody these ideas, the menu entry can be corrected to say: Crispy Fried Glutinous Rice Dumplings.

2. Long-time delay

Like Professor Zhu said, the use of “time” in the phrase is unnecessary. The word “delay” already connotes that the subject of discussion is time. And to describe a situation with a lot of waiting, simply say, “There was a long delay,” or, “There is going to be a long delay,” if the event has not yet occurred.

3. They traveled Wangfujing.

I agree with Professor Zhu's analysis of this statement, and I think he has covered all the relevant points.

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch out for it each week.



Get Smart (2008)

Scene 1

(Max debriefs the Chief and other agents about the current status of the KAOS agents, hoping to find some valuable information.)

Max (M): I have obtained a **snippet**(1), at great risk to a **busboy**(2) in Balahd. "Aftab, how is your coffee?" "Good, Dalip, it's decaf. How is yours?" "It is good also. How is your muffin?" Powerful stuff.

Chief (C): So "muffin," then, is a code word?

M: No, it is comfort food and quite frankly, more fattening than most people realize. Which begs the question, Why would two **hardened**(3) KAOS agents risk the **carbs**(4)? Because they are under a great deal of stress.

Agent 23 (23): Hence the decaf.

M: For Aftab, yes. Dalip takes his full-strength. Why? Because he has been sleeping on the couch for three days because he called his sister-in-law a "leathery hag."

Larabee: People often say things in anger they don't really mean. Leathery hag, fat cow, ungrateful whore. Just words, really, that shouldn't be used against you in a custody hearing.

Agent 91: Let it go, man. Those kids don't even look like you.

C: Can we **put a pin in**(5) this, please and go back to Max's extraordinarily detailed report?

M: Thank you, Chief. All I'm saying is that until we understand that our enemies are also human, we will never defeat them. Yes, they are bad guys, but that is what they do, not who they are. Let's continue listening and **bear in mind**(6) that the next 100 pages can get a little bit dry.

Scene 2

(After looking at Agent 99's old photo, Max, who used to be overweight, asks the agent why she underwent plastic surgery.)

M: Why did you change your looks?

Agent 99 (99): Oh. Um ... Things from my non-work **sphere**(7) **spilled into**(8) my work sphere. Facts became known, identities were compromised, and I became a brunette.

M: Wow. That is a great story in which you revealed absolutely nothing about yourself.

99: I **blew**(9) a mission. I was involved with someone from work. I lost focus. The mission blew up. I **broke it off**(10) with that person, but my identity had already been revealed. So I had two choices. I could either spend the rest of my life behind a desk which would be like eight hours a day of scrap-

Movie of the week

Steve Carell, one of Hollywood's most popular comedians, co-stars with America's newest sweetheart, Anne Hathaway, in this action-packed spy comedy adapted from a 1960s TV show. Famous for his trademark quick quips and silly laughs, Carell delivers a funny yet captivating performance as a man tries to achieve his dream even when nobody else thinks he can. There are some silly moments in the movie, but most of it is filled with genuine hilarity.

Synopsis

Over-eager Maxwell Smart dreams of becoming an agent for the top secret government organization, CONTROL, and longs to go on action-packed spy missions like his idol, the charismatic Agent 23. When CONTROL headquarters is attacked by longtime nemesis group KAOS and many of the agents' identities are compromised, Smart is promoted to Agent 86 and partners with the unwilling Agent 99 to thwart the villainous group's latest plan for world domination.

ing a cheese **grater**(11) against my forehead. Oh, you know.

M: Yes.

99: Or I could change my face, so that's what I did. And it was painful, but it needed to be done, and ... I don't wanna talk about this anymore.

M: Okay.

99: I used to look like my mom.

M: I used to look like two of my moms put together.

Scene 3

(Max is suspected of being a double agent because he failed in his mission to locate nuclear weapons.)

C: I'm very disappointed, Max. I thought you and I were supposedly **cut from the same cloth**(12).

M: Chief, we are. How can you think that I am a double agent?

99: You lied about finding evidence of radioactivity.

23: Conveniently killed Krstic before anybody could question him.

C: There's the little matter of your shoving my head in with a fire extinguisher.

M: I said I was sorry. You just didn't hear me, because you were in a mini coma.

C: You've made CONTROL a **laughingstock**(13). The vice president wants to shut us down, you know.

M: 99, this whole week, last night, you know me.

99: Apparently not.

23: Oh, my God! You two? You and Max? You said we had to break up because we work together.

M: Oh, my God! You and 23? I am so sexually threatened right now.

Vocabulary

- Snippet:** A small piece of news, information or conversation.
- Busboy:** A young man whose job is to take away dirty dishes from tables in a restaurant.
- Hardened:** Experienced.
- Carbs:** Carbohydrates, a substance in food that provides one's body with heat and energy.
- Put a pin in/on:** To not discuss something further in the present context, but to deal with it later.
- Bear in mind:** Keep in mind.
- Sphere:** A particular area of work, knowledge or activity.
- Spill into:** In this context, it means to get mixed up with.
- Blow:** In this context, it means to lose an opportunity by making a mistake.
- Break off:** To end a relationship.
- Grater:** A tool with a rough surface to break cheese into small pieces.
- Cut from the same cloth:** To be very similar.
- Laughingstock:** Someone who has done something so silly that people have no respect for them.

(By Milo Lee)

